ARIFURETA SHOKUGYOU DE SEKAISAIKYOU

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Arifureta Shokugyou de Sekai Saikyou

(ありふれた職業で世界最強)

From Common Job Class to the Strongest in the World

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(厨二好き)

Story Description:

Among the class that was transported to another world, Nagumo Hajime is an ordinary male student who doesn't have ambition nor aspiration in life, called by his classmates as "Incompetent". The class is summoned to become heroes and save a country from destruction, students of these class are blessed with cheat specs and cool job class, but that's not the case with Hajime, his job class is a "Synergist" and his stats are very normal (mediocre). "Synergist", to put it in another word is just artisan class. Being the weakest, he then falls to the depth of the abyss when he and his classmates are exploring a dungeon. What did he find in the depth of the abyss and can he survive?

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Arc V

Chapter 111 : Those guys once again

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

The thick clouds underneath them were quickly passing by. The grass plains and trees were overlapping with the clouds, occasionally a small village could be seen, but as expected it would be quickly left behind in no time at all. It was supposed to going at a considerable amount of speed but, some kind of barrier was placed which made the breeze comfortable.

Someone's ponytail trademark was drifting in the comfortable breeze, It was Shizuku who was watching the scenery before her eyes, and she changed her glance over towards the sun which shone brightly overhead.

The blessing of lights seen from clouds, if we reached out would we be able to grasp it? it was so close that it could be mistaken as so. Shizuku was leaning her back on the handrail while blocking the sunlight with her hand, as if looking far into the distance, she suddenly muttered something as if she was tired from just thinking about it.

[.....Who would have expected that he built an airship. .....He can already do everything huh]

Right, the place where Shizuku was currently at was the rear deck of the airship "Feruniru" that Hajime created.

This Feruniru was mainly made out of gravity stones and induction stones, along with other various functions built in, it was their new way of transportation. The reason why they've never used it up until now was solely because Hajime had thought that it was too early.

Though it wasn't difficult to move something through gravity stones, the bigger the mass became the more you needed to be experienced in

Creation magic. As far as the Cross bitts go, they had a limit of being able to only lift up 1 person.

However, through the results of pilling on training between several intervals of time, he finally became skilled enough to freely operate a large floating mass, the compiled data was then used to create the airship, “Fenuniru”. Since they’ve left the Kingdom, everyone was doubting Hajime as they gathered at the grass plains on the outskirts of the Kingdom without a wagon nor a car which ran on magic, when Hajime showed Fenuniru he had a triumphant look on his face.

[It’s commonsense that flight transportation devices are obtained near the end of a journey]

Is what he said while full of confidence.

This Feruniru was 120 meters in length and in the shape of a devil fish, inside of it contained halls that led to the bridge towards the front and living quarters at the center, furthermore there was also a kitchen and room to take baths. Though I say that, because they’re able to travel to the Empire which usually takes 2 months by carriage in only 1 and a half days, how much the utilities are going to be used is unknown. Even just floating in the sky consumes quite a bit of magical power. If it wasn’t Hajime, then using it for long times would be impossible.

[So this was where you were……Shizuku]

[Kouki…..]

As Shizuku was recalling Hajime’s words and tsukkomied in her mind, just what about this is commonsense?, she was called out to.

When Shizuku looked towards the voice, Kouki’s face appeared from the hatch that just opened up. Kouki came straight up besides Shizuku and with both arms on the handrail, he began to look towards the clouds that were in the distance.

And he started to mutter something.

[This is…..incredible]

[That's right. ……I'm already tired of being surprised at every little thing]

Naturally, what Kouki was talking about was the airship Feruniru. However, his expression showed no colors of admiration, it was somewhat discouraged and at the same time, mortifying.

[Hows everyone else?]

[Ryutaro and the imperial guards are eating what Shia-san cooked for them. Suzu is chatting with Riri. ……Nagumo is……flirting around. At the bridge laying down and relaxing……]

The reason they accompanied Hajime was to keep their promise of protecting and sending off princess Ririana and her imperial guards to the Empire, and it was only Kouki's Hero party. The remaining students who couldn't fight were left with Aiko, the Nagayama front-forces as well, they decided to protect the Kingdom while Kouki and them weren't there.

To begin with, the long-distance transfer that Freed left behind at the Kingdom gave them a hint, there was an artifact that allowed them to return at anytime, if Kouki and them asked Hajime they'd be able to return immediately.

Shizuku glanced towards Kouki who was a biting his words. Shizuku could somehow sympathized with his behavior, she scratched her cheek and showed a wry smile as if asking, what's up, and talked.

[What is it, you seem pretty dissatisfied? Does it not sit well with you that Nagumo-kun is popular?]

[……It's not like that]

Shizuku called out while poking fun at him, Kouki's expression seemed to have been ill-humored and replied bluntly.

[……Being able to create something this amazing……and being insanely strong……why is it that he's able to act so nonchalantly like that. ……Why was he so easily able to abandon them……]

[……]

It appears that Kouki is still not comfortable with Hajime's judgement to not fight god and abandon this world. If he himself had that much power then he'd go off and save the world from god himself……while he was thinking about that, Shizuku completely understood what he meant.

[……He's probably already chosen]

[chosen?]

Shizuku's reply which she muttered made Kouki turn his glance at her again. While Shizuku was looking far into the distance, she took her time to choose her words.

[He is…..probably not as free as he appears? Perhaps, even though he looks calm, I think he's probably always "frantic". He's always "frantically" trying to survive with his important people]

[…….]

[He's already said it too right? You don't do something because you've gained power, because you want to do something you use power. Right now what you're feeling is the "difference", it wasn't something that he had from the beginning. "Incompetent", "Good-for-nothing", while being told such things, he crawled up from the bottom and obtained it. …..Literally, what he obtained at the end was determination and resolution. Not In order to defeat god, nor save the world. It's much simpler, it's for those who are close to him…..it's completely different from us who "because we can, we will". That's why, even if hes being told "because you can, then do it", he won't easily nod and agree with it. Because, he didn't obtain power for that purpose, if he looks the other way and loses his most important things then he'd obtain nothing out of it….]

[…..I don't really understand]

[U~n. Though it may be a bit different, look, in order to become the boxing world champion I worked hard, since you're strong, wipe out all the evil in the town! saying something like that just doesn't work out?]

[Mu….when you say it like that…..but, what's on the line are the lives of

the people of this world]

Midway in, Kouki stubbornly refuted Shizuku while his eyebrows were in a ハ shape.

[Ma~a, not being able to leave behind people in need is one of your good traits but.....that's only Kouki's senses of value so you shouldn't force them onto Nagumo-kun]

[.....What's with that, do you have his back on this?]

[What childish things are you saying. I'm simply talking about people in general? Besides, I'm sure you haven't forgotten it, somehow or another Nagumo-kun has saved numerous people including us. It was the same for the town of Ulu as well, Kaori also said that he saved the Ankaji dukedom too. It seems he also wiped out the hidden organization that took part in human trafficking at Fuyuren and he also rescued Myu who was a Umininzoku child and returned her to her mother too. .....As for us, I don't think we've done much to save the people from this world?]

[That's.....]

[Surely for himself.....he'd only act for those who are important to him such as Yue and them.....fufu, thinking about that, eventually he might "Take the opportunity" to send god flying away?]

[What's with that, that pitiful god....]

While thinking of such silly things, Shizuku laughed as she thought that it was possible in the future if it was Hajime. Kouki had a complicated expression but, he didn't have the strength to deny Shizuku's words so he tsukkomied and stopped at that. For a while, a time of silence passed by. Shizuku guessed that Kouki was thinking while carrying conflicted feelings within himself again and decided to not say anything.

Then, at that time, Feruniru which had flown in a straight course and fixed speed suddenly went off course. Kouki and Shizuku were wondering what happened since if they just flew straight they'd reach the Empire.

[.....Did something happen?]

[For the time being, shall we go back inside]

The two nodded in consent and quickly returned into the ship.

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When Shizuku and Kouki entered the bridge, everyone had already gathered around the crystal like object at the center.

[What happened?]

[Ah, Shizuku-chan. Un, for some reason people are being chased by the Empire's soldiers]

Kaori answered Shizuku who asked. What Kaori pointed towards in cubic crystal was, several Usagininzoku's running through a valley, behind them were approaching empire soldiers who were playing a real game of tag with them.

This crystal was created with the "Distant Viewing Stone" and "Distance Transmitting Stone" through Creation magic, it was possible to project the image of the distant surroundings with the crystal installed in the bridge, in simple terms, it was a telescope which was capable of projecting an image.

When Shizuku looked at the crystal display, certainly, there were 2 Usagininzoku women between a narrow valley without any flowing water, they seemed to be worrying as they ran away from the Empire soldiers who were approaching behind them. Behind the approaching Empire soldiers were several large transportation carriages, rather than chasing them from the beginning, did they escape instead? Or were they trying to catch the Usagininzoku's that they found by chance?

It appears that Hajime and them saw the situation and slowed down Feruniru. Normally he'd just ignore it but, because it was Shia's race he decided to be concerned about it.

[Isn't this bad! If we don't immediately help them!]

Kouki shouted out as expected. It seemed like he'd jump out at any moment even though they were in the sky.
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However, Hajime didn't answer the rushing Kouki, he drew his eyebrows closer to the crystal display and looked at it suspiciously.

[Oi, Nagumo! Surely you're not intending to abandon those girls are you!? If you won't be helping then I'll go! Hurry and let me down!]

[Shia, these guys are.....]

[Eh? .....Ar~e? These 2 are.....]

Hajime ignored the raging Kouki and called out to Shia. Shia also seems to have noticed now that they zoomed in on the image.

[Why are you two so laid back! Their the same race as Shia-san right! Do you think nothing of it!]

[I'm sorry, you're a bit noisy so could you quiet down for a bit? .....Hajime-san, there's no doubt about it. It's Rana-san and Mina-san]

[As expected huh. .....Because of their sudden change in condition I had a hard time remembering. .....These guys movements and expressions.....fumu]

Kouki's opinion was completely cut off by Shia and he instinctively became quiet. By the way, the reason why Kouki was addressing Shia with "San" was due to the results of her introducing herself by her first name with a refreshing smile, but Shia had said to just call her by her first name without adding honorifics with a smile.

In the meantime, the two Usagininzoku women stopped moving their legs as they fell onto the ground. Their current position was at a slightly more open valley.

When he saw that, Kouki regained his senses and decided that he'd leave the bridge and go to the front deck. Though there's still quite some distance between them, for the time being he was intending to shoot magic to attract the Empire soldiers attention.

[Ma~a, wait. Amanogawa. It's fine]

[Wha, what are you saying! Those feeble women seem like they'd be attacked at any moment!]

~Ki~ Kouki glared at Hajime in frustration, However, Hajime was smiling from ear to ear and muttered like something was interesting as he looked at the crystal display.

[Feeble? No way. Those guys are.....the “Hauria” you know?]

What are you saying? immediately after Kouki’s doubtful expression, [Ah!], someone’s astonished voice sounded out. When Kouki looked towards the crystal display to see what happened, what was there was.....a mountain of corpses consisting of Empire soldiers who were beheaded or pierced accurately through the head by an arrow.

[.....Eh?]

Not just Kouki but everyone who didn’t know of the Hauria tribe became dot eyed. In the meantime, feeling suspicious that the forces which left the transportation wagons weren’t returning after they went to chase the Usagininzoku, they decided to send out several scouts.

And, when those scouts found the mountain of their comrades corpses, they called out to the two Usagininzoku women who were at the center leaning on one another and shaking as they approached in a threatening voice.

They may have usually been much more careful of their actions after suddenly finding a mountain of their comrades corpses but, before them were the pet slaves who had absolutely no fighting power. They approached while upset but had no caution. They got closer.

The moment when one of the scouts was about to grab one of the Usagininzoku woman by her Usamimis, an arrow shot out from somewhere and pierced through the scout behind him in the head. When the scout noticed the sound of the man collapsing on the the ground and convulsing, he looked back.

In front of him, the Usagininzoku woman who should have been trembling in fear got up without a sound, at some point she was already wielding a short sword in her hand and the scout in front of her was easily beheaded.

And the other Usagininzoku woman also immediately kept a low posture as she crawled on the ground towards the beheaded man who was falling sideways and easily reaped the head of the last scout who was stunned towards the sudden situation.

The head popped off as if it was a toy, Kouki and them, [U~], became pale faced and held their mouths. Princess Ririana and her imperial guards instinctively stared at Shia when the impossible scene of the Usagininzoku killing the Empire soldiers were shown. The special one wasn't only you!? with their eyes opened wide in surprise.

[No, without a doubt I'm the only special one? There's no way that there would be so many just like me. That was the results of training for them. .....Hajime-san placed them into a hell which couldn't be lukewarm, it was training which could be called devil remodeling, that kind of feeling]

[[[[[.....]]]]]

Everyones line of sight turned towards Hajime. Their eyes all clearly expressed the same things. In other words, [It was you again!?]. Hajime abruptly averted his eyes.

In the meantime, the situation was coming to its final stages. The remaining empire soldiers and the transport wagon finally reached the slaughter site. The Empire soldiers foot completely came to a stop when they noticed the appearance of their comrades that were scattered on the road to block them.

They couldn't just advance on ahead by trampling on the corpses as if nothing happened, above all they became intensely agitated as they made a ruckus.

And the Hauria tribe didn't let that chance go by. No, everything may have been done for the sake of that chance to appear. The remaining Empire soldiers numbered 12. The Hauria tribesmen jumped out from both sides of the cliff, suddenly they appeared but even with the 2 women from before their numbers was only 5 people. However the Hauria tribesmen who jumped at them were better prepared to fight against the Empire soldiers, 3 heads were sent flying, and 1 person was shot right

through the middle of their forehead by an arrow.

The Hauria didn't let up their fierce attacks. Just like the flowing water, they attacked the Empire soldiers as a group.

The moment that one of the Empire soldiers managed to grab their sword, a Hauria would jump from the side and immediately cut their head off.

Arrows came flying towards the Empire soldiers from the front. It's speed was unlike those before it, they were transparent and the instant they tried to clear away as the Empire soldiers read where the arrow was going, a different Usagininzoku would come in from their blind spot and cut off their head.

While the Empire soldiers gave out a courageous roar as they approached and kicked the heads of the beheaded soldiers. The moment that their eyes were fixed onto the Haruia who were unforgivable due to their angered hearts, a different Hauria suddenly appeared behind their backs and beheaded them.

When you thought it was the right, they came from the left, when you thought they were in front, they came from the back, there were no restrictions, the Empire soldiers were at the mercy of the ever changing attacks. It didn't take much time……until their heads flew through the air.

[Is, is this supposed to be the Usagininzoku…….]

[Seriously……]

[Rabbit's are scary….]

Mutters filled with horror were heard on the bridge of Feruniru.

[Fu~n, their proficiency hasn't dropped at all. It doesn't seem like they skipped out on training. ……But, their ending was a bit weak]

As Kouki and them were still stunned with open mouths, Hajime pulled out Schlagen and opened up a part of the windshield and pushed the muzzle outside with a standing shooting posture. There was still around 5 kilometers before the site. Everyone besides Yue and them were popeyed,

Hajime was smiling and looking straight ahead without moving. Then he gently pulled the trigger.

Doba~an!!

The sound of an explosion was heard and a line flashed through the sky from Schlagen which gave off bright red sparks.

It blew up the head of the Empire soldier who jumped out of the carriage and was about to cast magic on the Hauria. There were also Empire soldiers in the carriage. With “Distant View” in Hajime’s magic eye, he was able to detect the surge of magic building up, he had noticed that the soldier was planning an ambush attack so he sniped him from Feruniru.

On the crystal display, it showed the Hauria tribesman's surprised expressions when the ambushers head was completely blown off. They immediately traced the line of trajectory and noticed Feruniru that was flying in the sky.

Normally they’d become cautious with the attack that came from a mysterious flying object but.....In the next instant their expressions became joyful.

A boy with a crossbow on his shoulder jumped out from the shadows of the rocks and smiled fearlessly! and decided to wildly salute. They seemed to have noticed who the person who shot out that flash was. It was to be expected of them. A bright red flash was a classic symbol of their boss who they loved and respected.....

The Hauria tribesmen saluted the boy whom they followed gladly. There appearances were seen reflected on the crystal display and once again everyones gazes turned towards Hajime. This time their eyes contained a lot of amazement. What kinds of things did he have to do to make the gentle Usaginizokus turn into that, Kouki and the others had eyes that silently questioned that.

[Hajime-san, Hajime-san. Let’s quickly get down. To be doing this kind of thing outside of the Sea of Trees.....maybe they’ve run out of control again.....]

Kouki and them watched as Shia rushed Hajime. From the Hauria tribesman's strategy, they were clearly aiming for the Empire's transportation force, it appears that, they took a trip outside of the Sea of Trees in order to kill Empire soldiers which caused Shia to became worried if they were intoxicated by battle again and ran out of control.

Hajime had thought from their appearances that there was no way of that happening but, because Shia had an anxious face, Hajime himself became slightly interested and decided to land Feruniru in the valley.

When Hajime and them got off at the valley, there were a lot of Demi-humans there besides the Hauria. There seems to have been about 100 people. It appears that that contents of the transportation wagons were Demi-humans. Besides Usagininzokus, there were Kitsuneninzoku*Fox* as well as Inuninzoku's*Dog* too, Nekoninzoku*Cat*, and many women and children Morininzoku*Forest People/elves*. Everyone looked at Hajime and them with cautious eyes, they weren't able to hide their surprise at the flying vehicle which they've never seen nor heard about before. It certainly was an encounter with the unknown.

And, with 80% of those who were surprised, a boy with a crossbow on his shoulder ran through the other 20% of Demi-humans who were confused and cautious, he immediately appeared before Hajime and performed a splendid salute with his back straightened.

[It's been a long time, Boss! I've been awaiting the day when we meet once again! I've never thought that you'd appear again like this, I'm once again impressed! Also for helping us a while ago, I thank you!]

[Yo~o, it's been a long time. Ma~a, don't mind what happened earlier. Since it was you guys, you'd likely be able to take on that kind of damage. ....You've guys have improved quite a bit]

When Hajime had a smile on his face and said that, 2 women and 3 men with Usamimis had come out from the dumbfounded Demi-humans and saluted just like the boy with Usamimis, their eyes were beginning to water up because of their overflowing emotions. And, while wonderfully

harmonizing their voices and their arranged heels sounding out.

[[[[[[We're grateful, Sir!!]]]]]]

The Hauria's voices trembled and echoed through the valley. They were moved enough to tears, but they didn't cry as their boss who they hold in high esteem praised them of their growth. Everyone looked up towards the empty sky and seemed to have held back the tears that were about to pour out. It appears that they put in slightly too much effort into holding the tears back as their eyes became bloodshot and scary. Hajime, Yue, and Shia were calm but, Teio and Kaori in the back, Kouki and them and Ririana and them were completely taken aback.

[Ehtto, It's been a long time everyone! It's great that you're energetic above all else. By the way, where are father and them? Is it just you guys Pal-kun? Also, why are you guys in such a place, going against the Empire soldiers.....]

[Please calm down, Shia-anego*older sister, extremely humble way*. If you don't ask one at a time I won't be able to answer? For the time being, right now there's only the 6 of us here. There are various circumstances, lets find a calm place where we can talk in detail. ....And also, it's not Pal-kun, its "Baltoferd of Certain Death". Please don't make mistakes?]

[.....Eh? Did you tsukkomi me just now? Or rather you're still taking up that name.....Rana-san and you guys should also be cautious]

Pal was the same as always and Shia massaged her temple as she endures her headache. However, the opinion to move to a different place was reasonable, for the time being she'll not press them any further, Shia gave out a warning to the woman Rana as well as the other members to not follow Pal's lead and change their names.

But, the reality was already something that went above expectations.

[.....Shia. It's not Rana.....its "Rana Inferna of Swift Shadows"]*I think, 疾影のラナインフェリナ*

[!? Rana-san!? What are you saying.....]

Out of the Hauria's, Rana had a firm older sister feeling, Shia's cheeks

start cramping up as she never thought this would happen. However the Hauria's furious attacks didn't stop. Attacking through waves of cooperation was their strengths.

[I'm, "Minasteria the Sky Render"!]*空裂のミナステリア*

[!?]

[I'm, "Yaozerias of Mighty Illusions"!]*幻武のヤオゼリアス*

[!?]

[I'm, "Yorugandal of Crawling Decapitation"!]*這斬のヨルガンダル*

[!?]

[Fu~, I'm "Liquid Break of Light Rain"]*霧雨のリキッドブレイク*

[!?]

Everyone had extremely triumphant looks as they took on poses like joO*<-reference which im sure i balls'ed up big time, 全員が凄まじいドヤ顔でそれぞれジョ○的な香ばしいポーズを取りながら* as they introduced their second name. Shia's expression was dyed in despair. It appears that, the boom of Hauria having 2 names (Chunii) was here. At this rate, the possibility of everyone in the whole clan having them is high. By the way, their official names were only two characters in their heads.*<-not sure what this line was for, i may have screwed up*

The family which she's reunited with after a long time turned into a situation where they took on poses with triumphant looks while declaring their second name, Shia's appearance was quite pitiful as she spat out ectoplasm from her mouth. That's why, Hajime was going to warn them that after several years they'd writhe around on the ground due to the embarrassment whenever they recalled their expressions.

However before he could, a stray bullet shot out from Pal.

[By the way, Which is better boss, "Crimson Flash of Rondo" or "White Claws and Fangs of Gale"?]*Probably wrong 紅き閃光の輪舞曲(ロンド) and 白き爪牙の狂飆(きょうひょう)*

[.....What?]

[Boss's second name. It was a heated discussion at the clan meeting for 10 days, somehow we've managed to narrow it down to these 2. However, we need to find out which is the best in the end, it was settled as a tie after fighting among the clan.....since its come to this, we were to entrust it to boss's judgement after reuniting. By the way, I'm on the "Crimson Flash of Rondo" side]

[Wait, since when was it required to have 2 names?]

[Boss, I'm firmly on the "White Claws and Fangs of Gale" side]

[No, listen to what I'm saying. I....]

[What are you saying Rana Inferna of Swift Shadows. No matter how you think about it, Boss perfectly fits "Crimson Flash of Rondo"!]

[No, kora, enough of this.....]

[That's right! He releases sparks of red magical power, master of various weapons and able to freely run around the skies, it's exactly "Crimson Flash of Rondo"! This is the best JK]*<- unable to actually understand what this meant, これー択だろJK*

[Stop it, anymore of that shameful commentary is----]

[Oioi, Yorugandal of Crawling Decapitation. If you say that then, that trademark white hair that waves around as he carries his powerful weapons in both hands called his claws and fangs and attack in waves like a storm, there's no other way of expressing it than "White Claws and Fangs of Gale", why can't you understand? Since when have you become so senile?]

[.....]

Ectoplasm began to flow from Hajime's mouth. It appears that the surprise present of their embarrassing commentary was making his mind reach it's limit. As they were getting along well with each other, unknown energy were flowing in the back of Hajime and Shia's mouths, ~Bufu~! the sound of it spouting resounded.

[Shi, Shizu Shizu, it's not nice to laugh, Bufu~!]

[Su, Suzu's laughing as well....Kufu....I wonder....have they been infected with chunii, fu, fufu~]

When Hajime regained his senses and looked behind him, Shizuku and Suzu's shoulders were shaking as were desperately trying to keep in their laughter. Although they were unable to keep it in at all.

For the time being, Hajime decided to shoot Pal and them who were having their heated discussion with rubber bullets and then turned towards Shizuku and Suzu with a reproachful look as they gradually shook.

[Yaegashi, for the cool you, I'll forcefully give you a twintail ribbon as a present later. Of course I'll also keep image recordings of it]

[!]

[Taniguchi, I'll shorten your height by another 5 centimeters]

[!]

Shizuku and Suzu's laughing immediately stopped and they trembled in fear. Even if it was unreasonably misplaced anger, if Hajime became serious then the 2 wouldn't be able to oppose him. And Hajime's eyes were completely serious.

[Ano.....is this a good time?]

While avoiding the Hauria that were floundering on the ground, Shizuku and them were protesting Hajime's unreasonableness, the voice which called out was a beautiful girl from the feet up, she was a slender beauty who had long blond hair and blue eyes. From her sharp pointy ears they could tell that she was a Morininzoku. Hajime had felt that she kinda looked like one of Fair Bergen's elders, Alfrerick.

[Are you without a doubt Nagumo Hajime-dono?]

[N? That's certainly right but.....]

When Hajime nodded, the beautiful blond haired blue eye Morininzoku gave out a relieved sigh as she patted her chest. To begin with, both of her thin hands were bound by metal handcuffs, it seems to have been

quite a pitiful state. Her ankles also had shackles with chains fixed on it, every time she walked her white skin turned red as it rubbed her skin.

[Then, is it fine to believe that you won't capture us and enslave us? I've heard from my grandfather that your senses of value for your own race is for better or worst, equal for everything. You would not toy with us Demi-humans.....]

[Grandfather? Is it possibly Alfrerick?]

[That is correct. I'm sorry for the delay but, I am, the only granddaughter of Alfrerick an elder of Fair Bergen, Arutena Haipisuto]

[An elder's granddaughter was captured.....it appears that there really were various circumstances]

Speaking of being the granddaughter of an elder, she's practically the princess of the Morininzoku, naturally, they should have also had firm escape methods and guards in case of emergencies. Without being able to use them, or it could be said that even if they used them they'd still get caught, that just shows how tight the situation was. As expected, something happened at the large tree? Hajime frowned as it was becoming increasingly necessary to hear Pal and their stories as he sharpened his glance.

In this situation, Hajime called out to Pal and them while ignoring Arutena's odd continuous stare.

[Oi, you guys. Bring over all the Demi-humans. Incidentally. I'll send you guys to the Sea of Trees]

[Yes, Sir! Ah, I'm sorry about this but, boss. I want to contact a comrade who's lurking on the Empire's outskirts, may I leave midway in?]

[Ahh, that works out just fine, we have a few guys here that we'll be sending to the Empire, I'll unload you guys a bit away from the Empire together]

[Thank you very much!]

Currently, Hajime and them were currently not to far away from the

Empire. The fact that the Demi-humans were being transported through carriage here would mean that, it wasn't going from the Sea of Trees to Empire, but rather it came from the Empire and was heading for another place. In other words, Pal and them went to the Empire to gather some kind of information, hearing the story of the transportation, they came chasing after it.

The Demi-humans began walking timidly and uneasily as they were told to by Pal and them. When he saw that, Hajime and them also returned to Feruniru. Then, at that time, nearby Hajime, [K~ya!], a cute scream resounded. Arutena appears to have tripped because of the fetters*chains*. While panicking with both hands in the air, immediately, since she was close-----she ended up clinging onto Hajime's back.

In an instant, the Demi-humans turned blue and stiffened up. If the other party were Empire soldiers then, the moment they were used as support, an open palm would come flying. While shouting [Why are you touching me without permission, you dirty beasts!]. That's why, Arutena also thought it would happen? she probably had an illusion that she was going to be hit.

However, Hajime isn't able to do such vulgar things.

[Ahh? ....Jeez]

As Hajime glanced behind his shoulder, he looked at Arutena's hands and feet as she cowered back after their glances aligned, [Well, yeah it would be hard to walk in those], while he convinced himself of that, he scratched his head like it was troublesome and kneeled down before Arutena who was standing. Towards that, the Demi-humans began to make a ruckus as if they were upset.

[Ah, ano....]

[It's fine so just stay still]

Similarly, Arutena was shaken when he suddenly decided to kneel down, right afterwards, Hajime's actions caused her to become even more uneasy. That was because Hajime was touching Arutena's foot. To be accurate, he was touching the fetters, Arutena was shocked and

trembling. Never before has a man knelt down and touched her feet before, she became stiff and uneasy as her eyes swam around. Then, in the next instant, her eyes rounded up in surprise. Once she noticed that red magical power was gushing out, without a sound the fetters came off.

When Hajime stood back up, this time he held onto both of Arutena's hands. At that point, Arutena had understood what Hajime was going to do and managed to regain some composure. And once again the fascinating red radiance gushed out again. A small voice that may or may not have resounded, [How beautiful……], was muttered. Recently, has Hajime's magical powers been sharpened? It seems to have been much brighter than before.

After removing the handcuffs he immediately threw them away and he finally touched Arutena's neck. It was because a slave's collar was attached there. With a serious look and having her neck felt by Hajime, Arutena's cheeks were heating up for some reason. After Hajime easily removed the collar, [This should be alright now], he convinced himself, and as if nothing happened he turned around.

And, Hajime noticed that strangely he had become the center of attention. The Demi-humans were looking at him as if looking at a mysterious person, Pal and the other Hauria seemed to be proud, Kouki and them seemed to be slightly complex, and Yue and the females had eyes filled with both amazement and sharpness. While flinching a bit Hajime questioned, [What is it?].

However, against that, the females who noticed Arutena's slightly blushed cheeks reacted.

[[[[[……Nothing (ja*Teio*) (desu*Shia*)]]]]]

It was incredibly cold.

Chapter 112 : Dere Period?

#2 worst translated chapter

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

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After Hajime had unshackled all the demi-humans, they began to explore the airship to satisfy their curiosity, back in the bridge Hajime was listening to Pal and his group's story.

[I see.... the Majinzoku attacked both the Empire and Sea of Trees]

[Affirmative. Though I don't know of the details of the Empire, the Sea of Trees was invaded by a large group of strong demons. It would have been dangerous if not for our previously laid traps]

According to Pal, the Majinzoku also took along an army of demons to the Sea of Trees. [Harutsuina Sea of Trees] its natural since Freed's groups goal is to obtain more Age of Gods magic they would would aim for it, after all it's well known as one of the great labyrinths.

Naturally the soldiers of Fair Bergen*Faea Belgaen in Endo's translation, that's probably the proper way but for my convenience i wont change it* couldn't permit the Majinzoku to just waltz right in, so they gathered the biggest forces they could muster up in order to confront them. They believed that they had the advantage due to the naturally dense fog, but their expectations were easily betrayed and they soon fell into confusion. Apart from the Majinzoku, the demons that they brought along showed their powers to the fullest extent in the Sea of Trees. Even though the demons were not of the insect type, they paved their way through, defeated and took the lives of many soldiers of Fair Bergen one after another through their odd magic.

The Majinzoku turned around and asked the defeated Demi-humans, similarly to Hajime, [Where is the entrance to the large labyrinth?] However they couldn't just obediently give information to the enemies, they didn't know when the Majinzoku would start advancing towards Fair Bergen to ask random bypassers, so they quickly sent someone back to the town. The council was quickly gathered and a decision was made, the demons were far too strong to defend against, they decided to give them the information. In order to avoid a disaster like in Hajime's case. The labyrinth itself will clear away all who aren't worthy.

However, even though they asked the same question as Hajime, the Majinzoku had a different sense of value for the Demi-humans. No, the Majinzoku didn't do as Hajime did at all, they carried a huge sense of discrimination and hatred against Demi-humans.

They believed that the world belongs to the Majinzoku, and that these beasts that have been abandoned by god is of the utmost humiliation and are absolutely unbearable. Their expressions were that of mad men with absolute confidence in their own god.

And, the Majinzoku bared their fangs at Fair Bergen. They decided to hunt down the Demihumans before going into the dungeon.

The soldiers of Fair Bergen fought back desperately. However, the army of unknown demons were too strong and had no troubles in the Sea of Trees, their chances of winning was low.

As it stood, they would be defeated sooner or later, a soldier of the Kumaninzoku*Bear people* understood this and looked for a chance to escape from Fair Bergen. His purpose was not to run away. His purpose was to beg for help.

His name is Regin*Jin in Endo's translations, again for my convenience i'll keep it like this* Banton. It was the elder which attacked Hajime out of anger and was greatly injured in the process, it was the man that held a deep grudge against the Hauria*Shia's group* tribe.

Now, Regin, without shame nor reputation, went forth to bow down to the Hauria tribe which was banished from Fair Bergen. He ran

desperately through the Sea of Trees, his body was covered in wounds, when he finally reached the new village he prostrated himself on the ground many times. He asked them earnestly.

---I need your help, please lend me your power.

The head of the Hauria tribe, Cam, went out and answered the wish.

The reason is not for Fair Bergen. Of course their own species, the Usagininzoku were still in Fair Bergen, but that wasn't the reason either, above all, the thing that Cam could not forgive was the fact that the Majinzoku's purpose was the great labyrinth.

Emergency, if the Majinzoku's do something wierd to the labyrinth.....

When their boss Hajime returns at a later time. He would not be able to look him in the eye if the Majinzoku did something to it.

As a subordinate of Hajime, it would not do if the bosses wish was obstructed by something, in order to have a happy reunion where we can proudly stick out our chests, otherwise we don't have the qualifications to call Hajime, boss! he said.

Though Hajime doesn't really mind such a thing.....it's the pride of the Hauria.

As a result, the Hauria tribe, rather than answering Regins request, [Who dares put their hands on something that belongs to the boss, ahn!? if they want to fight, shall we give them a fight!?] with that in their minds, they decided to participate.

Regin's thoughts later.

[The Hauria were really scary at that time. though they weren't in a frenzy like last time, their lips were waveringly shaking, and splitting abruptly....they were laughing. Uu, it wasn't possible for me to sleep well from that day on. .....The rabbits lips were recalled in my dreams, my neck....Haa~ Haa~.....no more. My anxiety doesn't stop. .....Where is the medicine.....]

As the Hauria entered the war, they first decided to wiped out all

demons outside of Fair Bergen. Their purpose was to build strategies by confirming the demons movements and odd magics. Although the Hauria tribe became strong, it was due to using their racial abilities to the fullest, along with the mentality of not running away from fights, their spec's didn't actually increase in any way, shape, or form. Therefore, they didn't recklessly charge in against a new kind of demon they've never fought before.

The other party was a formidable foe, so resolution was needed, preparation of stealth attacks, surprise attacks, lying and deceiving, they did everything to gather information.

And, when the chest board was set up, they all took the offensive at once. Even if the dense fog wasn't effective, the demons were skillfully being killed by the Usaginizoku's original techniques.

Sooner or later the Majinzoku finally started to notice that their demons were disappearing, they ordered a quick regroup. The Hauria that couldn't defeat demons were made to be decoys, Instructions were then given to place traps around their new village.

Then guiding them was simple. anyhow, being baited so easily, the Majinzoku's blood rained down and heads rolled on the ground. Then they appeared and snorted through their nose....it was enough.

After wiping out the Majinzoku, the Hauria suffered some losses as well.

However, their current situation wasn't over yet. Though Fair Bergen was saved by the Hauria, the amount of collateral damage was huge. There was no room to guard the Sea of Trees with all the nursing and funerals that were needed.

Then, at that opening, the Empire soldiers invaded the Sea of Trees.

Their purpose was to abduct Demi-humans.

After the battle was over, the Hauria went back to their village and was late to notice, as a result, there was basically no resistance while kidnaping. When Cam noticed the kidnappings, he kidnaped and

questioned an empire soldier, apparently the Empire suffered from a demons attack, it was decided that they needed to secure manpower for repairs, in other words, the Demi-humans(.....)that appeared to be the reason for invading the Sea of Trees.

Cam quickly rushes to the other Usagininzoku villages, but he was too late, most of the women and children have already been kidnaped. It's clear that the powerless Usagininzoku's were not abducted in order to help with the required manpower for the empire. Their purpose was to be used to satisfy their people after receiving an attack.

As expected, the Hauria tribe could not overlook their fellow species, the majority of their forces were left to guard the Sea of Trees, Cam and a small group chased after the Empire soldiers transport wagon that was heading towards the Imperial Capital.

However, communications with Cam was suddenly cut off after they reached the Imperial capital. No one came to the meeting place that was set up ahead of time.

The remaining people at the Sea of Trees became restless and decided to send out scouts towards the empire.

Results, Cam's group that invaded the Imperial capital never came out.

Afterwards, in order to invade the Imperial capital and find out Cam's status, Pal's group was gathering information on the security of the capital when they noticed that there was a transportation wagon with a large amount of Demi-humans leaving for another town, Pal's group then put information gathering on hold and went to rescue their comrades.

[However boss, by any chance, have other places also been attack by Majinzoku?]

[Ahh, they're active behind the scenes here and there? well, luckily I was around and they were all defeated]

If you think about it, Hajime could be considered a God of Plague for the Majinzoku. This is because he doesn't actually hold any hostility towards their race, it just so happens that their timing is bad, so he ends up

kicking them out of his way when they obstruct him.

[Well, I have a rough understanding of what's going on. First of all, you need more information about Cam who's in the Imperial capital?]

[Affirmative. And, though I'm sorry boss.....]

[I understand. We'll be passing by anyways. The fellows that got caught, I'll send them back to the Sea of Trees]

[Thank you!]

Pal and his group all bow at once. Though Shia mumbled a little, nothing was said.

Hajime noticed it and knew what Shia wanted to say, but he waited for her to say it herself, in the end nothing was said.

Finally, Hajime received a message for the leftover forces at the Sea of Trees, then dropped off Riria-na*the Princess* and Pal's group off a little ways away from the Imperial capital. Then his party set a course at full speed towards [Harutsuina Sea of Trees].

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Once again Hajime set foot on [Harutsuina Sea of Trees] and welcomed the dense fog which shuts out all light ahead.

Still, if there were no Demi-humans to guide the way, people who were below Hajime's inhumane level would likely be driven mad. As Hajime led the group, in order to not be separated he placed Demi-humans on the outside to enclose their surroundings.

Strangely Arutena was walking especially close to Hajime, he decided to ignore it and keep advancing. Shia who was walking nearby had an anxious face, suddenly her ears reacted with a ~pico pico~. Shia lifted up her face, then began to stare at what lied ahead.

[Hajime-san, there's an armed group up ahead]

The surrounding Demi-humans turned a surprised look towards Shia due to her words. Even the kidnapped Usagininzoku in the group were surprised that Shia had managed to perceive something that they
~~~~~~

couldn't.

As if confirming Shia's words, a group of Toramimi*Tiger eared* Demi-humans appeared through the fog with weapons. The armed group had fierce eyes and stared at them, then they sensed that there was a large group of Demi-humans in the group, so they decided to not suddenly attack.

Among them, the eyes of the Toraninzoku*Tiger race* who seemed to be the leader, stopped at Hajime. His eyes were then opened wide in astonishment.

[You, that time.....]

Hajime also recalled the Toraninzoku's appearance. His name is Ghil*Gil in Endo's Official translation*, he was the commander of the security force that confronted Hajime the first time he came to the Sea of Trees. Apparently he survived the invasion and is currently patrolling again.

[What on earth do you want this time.....is that, Arutena!? Are you alright!?]

[Ah, Yes. These people and the Hauria tribe helped me]

Ghil tried to ask Hajime's purpose in a wild voice, and Arutena who was by his side noticed and showed herself. To the words of Arutena, a deep sigh of relief and amazement was heard.

[That's good. Alfrerick-sama was very sad. quickly, please show him your energetic appearance. .....Boy. You, for what reason did you help us Demi-humans? Though it doesn't suit you who is arrogant and haughty.....well, you have my thanks]

[There wasn't a specific reason. it was only a coincidence, a coincidence]

From the atmosphere of meeting an acquaintance, Shizuku's group had doubtful faces. Shia then explained what had happened quietly, also how she fell in love with Hajime, and their faces showed consent.

[Now then, are any of the Hauria tribe stationed at Fair Bergen? or, a fellow that knows where their current village is located?]

[Mu? If its people from the Hauria tribe, there should be several in Fair Bergen. Though you've likely heard, there was an invasion, so many are currently living in Fair Bergen]

[Thats good then. Well, lets quickly head for Fair Bergen]

Hajime says so and urges ahead quickly. With an amazed face again, as usual it seems his attitude hasn't changed much, Ghil ordered his troops to brace their arms in order to guide them back.

There wasn't any feeling hostility like the first time anymore, is it because they were saved by the Hauria tribe which Hajime trained, or is it because there's a great number of people this time.....they were being mature about it and guiding Hajime, though it is convenient that they can get in without any trouble.

At last we've reached Fair Bergen, though it has changed greatly. First of all, the huge dignified gate had collapsed, the leftover remains have yet to be cleaned up.

And, the capital of the Sea of Trees which charmed Hajime with its fantastic beauty of nature, was completely destroyed with remains here and there, the air corridors and waterways made of tree trunks were broken down in places.

[This is awful.....]

Someone muttered.

Hajime totally agreed as well. The cold breeze coming from the darkness and Fair Bergen itself contained a gloomy atmosphere.

Then, people who happened to pass by saw Arutena and their expressions stiffens up, it was unbelieveable, afterwards, they exploded into cheers and ran up to them.

They finally notice that there is a party of humans by their side, when they were told of how Arutena was helped by them their expressions were

still stiff, but as they embraced one another exposing their joy, their wariness was relinquished. Of the kidnapped people, there were many that ran at full speed towards their house, after first bowing to Hajime.

The circle that encloses Hajime gradually grows, and the surroundings were completely buried by the people of Fair Bergen as they noticed. After a while the crowd begins to open a pathway. On the other side, stood Alfrerick Haipisuto, the most important person of Fair Bergen.

[Grandfather!]

[Oh, Oh, Arutena! Im glad, you were alright.....]

Arutena, ran at full speed while tears overflowing from her eyes, and jumped into her grandfather's chest. To the reunion of two family members that was thought to never be able to see one another again, many surrounding people were moved to tears.

After embracing one another for a while, Alfrerick later separated from his granddaughter and gently pats her head, then his gaze was turned to Hajime. A wry smile appeared in his expression.

[.....Its become a surprising reunion, Hajime Nagumo. Surely, I didn't think that my granddaughter would be saved. Our previous relationship aside*I improvised here, couldn't actually understand it though it has something to do with relationships i think*. .....We sincerely express our gratitude, Thank you]

[I only brought them here. If you wish to thank someone then thank the Hauria tribe. I've heard that there are people from the Hauria tribe here, let me meet with them.....]

[Yes, but it's you who changed the Hauria tribe. What goes around, comes around, you've not only saved my granddaughter, but also, us all. That is the fact. Your kindness is far more than we deserve and we would never be able to repay it all, but, at least accept our gratitude.]

Hajime, from Alfrerick's words, just shrugs his shoulders reluctantly and was scratching his cheek from having been slightly embarrassed.

Yue, Shia, Teio, and Kaori are happy from watching the heartwarming

scene. And, the man who dove into the dungeon in order to train and save the human race, to the fact that Hajime has been saving people all around the world, a complex expression was shown on Kouki's face.

Afterwards, Hajime, the Hauria tribe heard of their arrival and are quickly returning to Fair Bergen, we were given permission to wait in Alferick's house.

As to Alferick's order, they were treated to tea(Arutena blushed a great deal when our hands touched while she handed me tea*Improvised a little here but, it should be alright. There was a word in between hands that i couldn't understand*) When we finished drinking one cup, men and women of the Hauria tribe rushed in noisily.

[Boss!! I haven't seen you in a long time!!]

[We waited for you! Boss!!]

[I, I'm honored to finally meet you desu~! Sir!!]

[Uoi! Newbies! Boss has returned! Tell all the other guys! Get there in 30 seconds!]

[Yes, roger de arimasu~!]

The attitude of the leftover forces, Kouki who should have expected it already from the reaction from Pal's group is completely surprised! He spat out*it was either spat out, or spilled* his tea. While all members were wiping off the tea, they noticed that multiple Usagininzoku were lining up! Standing upright and immoveable with heels in arrangement, it was the appearance of wonderful saluting.

Though there are many who don't actually know Hajime, their behaviours and speech seems to have been trained into them voluntarily, and expanded their powers.

[Un~, Yes, its been a long time. Temporarily, since there are other people here lets stop the saluting]

[[[[[[Sir, Yes, Sir!]]]]]]

With a cheer for the boss that could be heard throughout the Sea of

Trees, the Hauria tribe seemed to be very satisfied, to the genuine cheer that they've experienced for the first time [we'll also finally……] the Usagininzoku that wasn't part of the Hauria tribe was filled with anticipation.

Surely, after Hajime leaves the Sea of Trees, the angry voice of Sergeant HarOman *thanks, lemonedSM* might have resounded throughout the Sea of Trees.

[I've meet Pal's group and understand roughly what's going on. You guys seem to have played an active role? You've done a great job repelling them]

[[[[[[Yes, We're grateful de arimasu~!!]]]]]]

The last reply was said full of emotion in a tearful voice. Hajime, then passed on Pal's groups information on to the Hauria who are trembling with emotion. In other words, Having found that Cam's group invaded the Imperial castle, they will also invade it. And, there is a request for assistance.

[Indeed. …..The message from "Baltoferd of Certain Death" has definitely been received. We express our thanks, boss]

[……Na, by the way…..what is your second name?]

[Ha? Me? ……Fu, of course. Like the falling thunder, an unpredictable thunderclap striking down his foes, I am "Iorunikusu of the Thunder Blade" *Yeah, these lines are iffy…it probably sounds out into something, but for the life of me i don't know*! desu~!]

[……Is that so]

It seems that it's already too late for the Hauria tribe.They've been completely infected. I regret that I didn't stop this from spreading beyond Baltoferd of Certain Death.

Hajime pulled himself together and asked "Iorunikusu of the Thunder Blade".

[There seems to have been members outside of the Hauria tribe thats

been trained, now, how many exactly?]

[……Rest assured…. Many brave young people from tribes that have good relations to our Hauria tribe have heard of the rumors and begged to be trained….. Our actual combat force goes up to 122 soldiers]

Not only Hajime, but also Yue and Shia were surprised, if thats the case then they've increased their numbers by a fair bit. Hajime's intentions aren't understood so "Iorunikusu of the Thunder Blade" has a doubtful face.

[we can carry all of the members at one time. …..Io, Runikusu. Quickly gather all the guys who want to follow us to the Imperial capital. I want to see everyone together here]

[Ha? Ha! Roger! At once!]

It appeared that "Iorunikusu of the Thunder Blade" didn't understand right away and asked back with a questionable face, then he guessed that it meant that they would be going with Hajime to the Imperial capital, he saluted and immediately left to gather the other members.

"Io…..of the Thunder Blade, Hajime returned in order to go to the great labyrinth, it appears he didn't think that Hajime would actually help them. It seems he shaken up by the unexpected words.

And, Io wasn't the only one who was surprised, Shia who stood next to Hajime was also surprised. Her eyes are open wide, and her rabbit ears are standing up straight! She stares at Hajime.

[Ha, Hajime-san…..the great labyrinth…..]

[You're worried about Cam's group right?]

[U….that….sono….but….]

Hajime hit the bulls-eye so Shia shuts her mouth.

Hajime's purpose is the great labyrinth, Cam's circumstances are unrelated, Shia was unable to say that she wanted to search for Cam's whereabouts, entering the Imperial capital which would prove too troublesome. Moreover, Cam wasn't kidnapped, he went in on his own

accord. If anything its his own responsibility.

Shia also decided to follow whatever Hajime's decisions were. Just like her father had his own path, Shia had hers.

However, still, if you know that your family members whereabouts are unknown, naturally you would be worried and search. Because of the anxiety being shown on Shia's face - Yue, Hajime, and the rest understood.

Hajime, walks up right beside Shia, who was quiet because she was grateful that extra time would be used, and places his hands on her cheeks.

[Fe?]

To Hajime's sudden action, Shia absentmindedly let out a voice with a confused face. While looking straight into Shia's eyes with persuading power, Hajime smiled and said.

[Shia, that anxious face doesn't suit you. If you're worried about Cam, just say you're worried]

[B, but....]

[No buts. Now, what do you want to do? You've always just said whatever you wanted. What happened to your impudence from our first meeting? To begin with, if you're not smiling..... I wont be able to contain my anger]

[Hajime-san.....]

Though it was snappishly said, it's obvious that he worried about Shia in all truths. The words that Shia yearned for. She understood, Shia places her hand on top of Hajime's hand thats on her cheek. Her eyes began to moisten with joy and love.

[You might not realise this.....but this, sono, what. it's enough, that i think that you're important. Therefore, Cheer up.... I won't hesitate to do my best]

[Hajime-san, I.....]

[Just say what you want to say. Because i will definitely listen]

With a gentle warmth transmitting to her cheek, to the eyes that looked straight back into her eyes, Shia's words that she locked up within herself began to spring forth.

[.....I, I'm worried about father desuu~. .....Just one look is fine, I want to see his safe appearance desuu~.]

[Really, you only had to say that in the beginning. Now, did you think i would decline?]

[Wa, I, I didn't mean for it to be like that! Mou, Hajime-san is truly annoying!]

Though she puffs her cheeks as if sulking, stars twinkled brightly in her eyes, her cheeks were dyed pink, and the face of a woman who was looking at her boyfriend was seen. To say it out, happy feelings were overflowing from her whole body.

Shia, though it was not intentional to be reserved with Hajime, due to the increase of women who thinks about Hajime(rivals), She unconsciously held back to increase her ratings.

Everything was blown away at Hajime's words, "You're important."

When this Shia was seen, the women reacts.

[.....N~. Shia, cute]

And, Yue watches Shia heartwarmingly. Just like an older sister.

[I ask of you, I'll be happy if you occasionally abuse me~]

And, Teio gave off an impression that couldn't be anything but perverted. will there be a way to cure her serious illness.

[Uu~, how enviable~]

[well, I would be glad if the man I liked said that to me.....]

[Na, Nagumo-kun.....Your very straight forward. I've changed my opinion of you. Suzu is shocked]

[Shia.....is enviable, I also towards Hajime.....]

The order is Kaori, Shizuku, Suzu, and why Arutena as well.

Then, at last, Shia notices her surroundings, Her face is dyed crimson red and she covers it up with both hands. However, her shame can't hold back her joy, her rabbit ears were waving happily, even her tail was moving according to her joy ~Rifu~.

Then, Io came over at just the right time. It seems that the preparations of the Hauria tribe is finished. It was unreasonably quick.

Alfrerick and Arutena were seeing off Hajime's group as they left on Feruniru*the airship* and flew off towards the Imperial capital.

Chapter 113 : Imperial Capital

#1 worst translated chapter

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

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Miscellaneous.

What kind of place is the capital of the Hoelscher empire? Might(Strength) is the only words you need*Improvised and shortened down*.

If you investigate you'll find the buildings are without affection and are practically placed in a row. Are the streets readjustments of town lots? Is there anything delicious*This line was odd*? There are entrances continuing to the back alley in disorder with big and small things here and there.

The atmosphere as well, there is tension strained everywhere like as if there was recently a disaster, even storekeepers who have opened a street stall serves people far from the idea of a "customer".

However, it was dark and stagnated but never became too much, they were lively with freedom of doing whatever they wanted to do. They had the freedom to do whatever they wanted, their only responsibility were to themselves. This was the creed of the citizens of the imperial capital.

The Hoelscher empire is a new country that an active group of mercenary in a previous great war established, A military nation to which strength speaks for everything. Many of the citizens of the empire are no stranger to fights, to the point that its almost an illness. Theres a huge arena of a colossal size, the kind where there are events done many times throughout the year.

[Oi, you [Doga!!] gupe~!?]

It was Hajime who entered the Imperial capital, naturally Hajime was leading around beautiful women so it was understandable, this process has been repeating many times, before they were done talking they were already kissing the ground. Just now a man with weapons came by and was knocked down while talking and the force caused him to do a triple axel as he fell to the ground.

However, the people do not seem to think much about it. This level of "Fighting" might be an everyday experience for them.

[Uu, though i heard about it already... after all, the empire is unplesant desuu~.]

[Yes, i feel that way as well. ....In a sense its good that we weren't summoned in this place.]

[Well, this is a military nation. Far from firepower being minimal, even the residents, there are many who have combat experience. The bad atmosphere is natural, the fighting is natural. Wanting to live is everyone's desire, mistress.]

Apparently, Shea didn't like the Imperial capital. Though Yue is silent, she also nods in agreement, after all this country isn't liked by women. Especially for Shia, the things she sees breaks her heart one at a time.

[Shia, don't look so much. ....There's no helping them even if you see.]

[.....Yes, that's right]

What Shia sees are slaves of the demi-human species. The slaves are being bought and sold actively. The empire allows the use of slaves, so business is very prosperous. There are children of the demi-human species turning their gaze to Shia as they were put in their cages with price tags on them, Shia's expression is clouded.

Yue clenches Shia's hand anxiously. Hajime as well, caresses Shia's cheek ~munimuni~ with awkward consideration. The warmth of two people is transmitted to the hand and cheek, and the rabbit ears on Shia's head moved around joyfully.

[.....I cannot permit it. Though we're all living.... the slaves.]

Kouki who was walking behind Hajime was grinding his teeth. He seemed like he would charge right in if left alone.

The influence of the church is strong, even the Hairhi Kingdom has a strong sense of discrimination against demi-humans. The matter of keeping demi-humans as slaves tend to be evaded, because there was no chance of Kouki and them seeing how demi-humans were treated in the castle. Therefore, there might have been extra shock to their minds.

However, it would be bad if he actually charges at them..... Hajime promised in his heart that he would pretend to not know him immediately if such an event happened.

Though, we don't have to worry because we have a reliable person here, the man of the world(Shizuku) is here so we don't have to be worried at all. Now, Kouki is getting fired up while being lectured about this and that. Ryutaro, the muscle for brains fuels it, Suzu casually holds them down. In a sense, they make a good team. Though the team seems to fail quickly if not for the women....

[That's right, wasn't Shizuku proposed to by the Emperor?]

[.....That's right, there was that too]

Shuzuku frowns as she remembers something she didn't want to.

Yue looks at Shuzuku and lets out a sound, [hoo~], with a slight smirk. Shizuku, frowned more at the glance. Kouki has a bitter expression nearby. Apparently, not only the country but also the emperor seemed to be dislikeable.

[About that, Nagumo-kun. Where exactly are we going?]

Shizuku, dodging the women who seemed to want to hear the details at any moment, the talk was redirected to Hajime. Though the story of confirming the safeties of Shia's father was heard, a concrete plan wasn't heard yet.

[N~? the adventurer guild first of all. If the "Gold" rank is used, most

information can be found through questioning]

[.....Does Nagumo-kun believe that he's been caught?]

[I don't know. If he has have been caught its possible he's been made into a slave, its also possible that he's just laying low somewhere too. The guards of the Imperial capital is on high alert, but to an abnormal level? To the point where its impossible to go out, entering was a good choice.....]

Hajime was right, and on a level was not an exaggeration to say that it was excessive. An empire soldier was stationed not as patrol on the outer wall and always kept a close watch until a physical checkup was done individually at the entrance gate.

Even in the city, the empire soldiers of a minimum of 3 man teams went glancing around not only in the main streets but also the back alleys. Perhaps it was due to the surprise attack of the demon, that would cause them to get ready for high-level caution even if there wasn't an order yet.

Because the Imperial capital is in such a condition, Pal and them are having trouble with invading, and are waiting for a chance. The Usagininzoku*Rabbit people* who aren't slaves can't just pour on into the imperial capital, and there are limits to pretending to be Hajime's slaves. Therefore, the reinforcement unit that Hajime brought is hiding in a remote rock zone away from the Imperial capital to not attract attention for now. Rather its strange how Cam's group was able to invade it.

However, Hajime said, [I don't know], its almost certain that Cam was caught by them already. As for the Usagininzoku,they were a demi-human race of first-rate stealth operations, and Cam continued to polish it. Even if going in and out is severe, he will likely be able to do something by sending a message to the outside by some method. If there are no signs, Its natural to think that

hes been caught already.

Of course, I don't think that the information on Cam can be found at the adventurers guild. However, there might be the case of an event or rumor related to it.

Shia looking uneasy, Hajime extends his hand to caress her cheeks again ~munimuni~. Shia, though she likes when her ears are felt, her cheeks being caressed was also a favorite. Hajime, told a joke to Shia while laughing that left a feeling of uneasiness.

[If hes been caught, we only need to take him back. Don't worry, shia. When the time comes, even if we have to turn the Imperial capital to ashes, we'll get him back.]

[N....leave it to us, shia]

[Hajime-san, Yue-san....]

[nonono, do we have to turn it into ashes? Though your eyes aren't laughing, is it really a joke? is it?]

[Shizuku-yan, the Imperial capital is already.....]

[You've already given up? Have you already given up, Kaori!?]

Was Hajime's joke not really a joke? Though shizuku tsukkomied while her cheek cramped up, she began to panic because Kaori seemed to be sad and shook her head.

Actually, it seemed too much like a joke, because surely Hajime cannot destroy one whole country.

While Hajime walked on the main street towards the adventurers guild while joking about a joke that actually wasn't, the state of the town began to change. Several buildings were collapsed, and there was debris scattered everywhere.

On the way, according to what they heard through their ears, the demon being managed in the coliseum for a duel, suddenly mutated and became a strong and huge demon which has never been seen before and it raged about. Suddenly the huge demon appeared at the center of the city (it seemed to be 30 meters in length.) the empire reacted afterwards and confronted it.

Finally, the Majinzoku*Devil Race* seems to take advantage and approached the emperor with a dash. While managing the demon by

going to the front personally, the emperor was able to repel the Majinzoku somehow....The compensation was large no matter how you looked at the state of the town.

It started at the colosseum which meant that it collapsed radially, at the miserable sight, many demi-human slaves were barefoot and brought out to remove the debris in great number.

Because of the collapse on the other side there were watchmen surveying the intense place, though we need to get to the adventure guild, due to nature, we watched. It reminded me of how the pyramids were constructed in ancient Egypt, the state of having to carry debris with a gloomy expression while under severe monitoring and abuse from the armed empire soldiers, which put a finished setting to the word misery.

The side effects of the damages in the Imperial capital seems to effect the demi-humans more than anyone else. Even though demi-humans are known for their physical powers, If one is overworked they'll definitely fall down and then someone will appear and beat them until they get back up.

If they don't get back up, the empire would simply attack the Sea of Trees to gain more supply of slaves because they don't see demi-humans as people. Or, the sense of values that strength reigns supreme and only the "weak" are excluded. The purpose of Arutena being transported to another city is also to replace previous slaves.

Just then, a boy around 10 years old with dog ears and tail tripped on some debris and fell down loudly, all the debris contained in his cart also fell out. The inumimi*Dog eared* boy was crouching down enduring the pain of his foot, the empire soldiers of the watch had a dangerous look, he began to approach with a club in hand. It's obvious what he plans on doing.

And, the ally of justice couldn't remain silent about something about to happen right in front of him.

[Oi! Stop....]

Kouki, tries to run out while raising a loud voice to stop the empire

soldier. However, he was stopped by the event that happened in the next moment.

Pashu~!

At the same time as the subtle sound was heard through the air, the empire soldier toppled down like a brick and dove onto the debris.

Gosha! an indescribably miserable sound was heard, the empire soldier who was approaching the inumimi boy didn't move an inch. Apparently he fainted somehow. Afterwards the empire soldiers co-worker came rushing in a hurry, after seeing his condition, he shook his head with an amazed expression and carried him away somewhere. Leaving behind the inumimi boy.

The inumimi boy, just looked with a blank surprised expression for a while as he didn't understand what just happened, He then quickly rakes up all the fallen debris that fell out and resumed his job as if nothing happened.

Kouki who was going to begin running was stunned and baffled. Then, Hajime's voice ranged out.

[Though i don't care if you thrust your neck into something troublesome, at least prevent it from troubling us?]

[N....was that you just now Nagumo-kun?]

Hajime shrugs his shoulder towards Kouki's question. Actually, the empire soldier stumbled and fell because of the needle that was shot out from his artificial arm. Apart from having been helped earlier by me, Kouki, frowned at the word "troublesome". Apparently, i've seemed to flip on his justice switch.

[What is troublesome. ....Is it bad to help? Even you helped me]

[If anything, stopping you from making a scene is the correct choice. If you went and stopped him more empire soldiers would have shown up and it would have become a riot. We came here to look for a person. Not to cause extra commotion. Can you not cause an unnecessary uproar, if you're going to cause one at least do it away from us so it won't be a

nuisance]

While giving an indifferent answer while waving his hand, Kouki heats up and sends their purpose of finding Shia's dad into the corner of his mind, He began to appeal for the sense of values of his ethics and justice.

[You, as your watching the demi-humans, do you think of it as nothing at all! Look, now, at this time, they are suffering!]

[Haa~, hey Yaegashi*Shizuku*, quickly do something about this fool whos lost sight of our purpose. I'm leaving it in your care]

Hajime also, Myuu was helped before. If a child suffers in front of his presence, he feels nothing at all*In case you guys are confused, this is because he got to know Myuu, so she wasn't a "random" child*. Be an adult....do something about it yourself, think what you want.

However, even after the original purpose was said, i can't work on the emancipation of slaves, so i left it to Yaegashi because its troublesome to play with Kouki.

Shizuku, though a sigh was let out....ahead of that, Kouki raised his voice in anger. Apparently, he seems to not like that Hajime had relied on Shizuku for this incident.

[Shizuku has nothing to do with this! Right now, im talking with you! You value Shia, so why are you deserting these demi-humans!]

As Kouki's voice became loud, people in the surroundings began to pay attention. Some of the remote empire soldiers and watchdogs began to glance towards Hajime frequently.

Since Hajime is an outsider and is looking for Cam who is currently hostile with the empire, he didn't want to stir up anymore unnecessary trouble with the authorities. Therefore, he rolled his eyes abruptly towards Kouki.

[.....Amanogawa*Kouki*. I'll say it one more time for you who has bad memory. Alright? i don't want to hear your repetitious complaining, and i don't plan on having a debate on ethics or sense of justice. I don't recognize you as companions, so i don't intend to get along with you.

After all you asked for "permission" and "followed" along. Therefore, don't rush in by yourself,

its unsightful. If you make too much noise.....should I crush your limbs and send you back to the Kingdom?]

[Kh.....]

[I said it a while ago, but i don't intend to interfere with you either. Therefore, while your still in range don't do anything that will trouble us. We came here to look for Cam. There is no time to be distracted on other things. .....And Shia is more important than other demi-humans to me]

Hajime, turned away from Kouki's glare, as if uninterested.

Slavery, its completely natural in this world. Though they're certainly receiving cruel treatment, it's "bad" to help a demi-human thats been enslaved in general. Because it counts as stealing another persons "possession".

"Still" it's probably necessary to think about it eventually. The resolution to fight against the empire itself to create a method of abolishing the slavery of the demi-humans. As it is, even if we help the slaves with force, there's a threat of retaliation and the demi-humans would be captured and treated more harshly than ever before.

Does he finally understand, if not..... Kouki stares at the back of Hajime and doesn't move. Still being urged by shizuku and them, he finally let it go reluctantly.

Kouki, though he's accompanying Hajime with permission, if what Hajime said about gods were true and others as strong as Nointo*White haired angel that Kaori is currently using as her body* will be appearing more often, then he has to obey, because it would be too difficult to obtain power otherwise.

To be able to obtain the Age of Gods magic by obeying Hajime was certainly the best choice. Therefore, he held back the ill feelings in his chest and became silent.

With the delicate atmosphere(only Kouki's group) they reached the

adventurers guild at last.

There are tables put in the large space for miscellaneous things, and two counters. One counter for the procedures and receptionist, who was also a woman, while the other counter was a bar. There are fellows drinking in the daytime here and there, if there wasn't, i felt like tsukkomi-ing to help with its revival.

When Hajime set foot inside, due to his familiar encounters he understood. In other words, vulgar glances would be placed on Yue and them. Therefore, Hajime while moving towards the counter used "Pressure" as soon as he stepped in.

As expected of a military nation, even as they drank there was no one who fainted, they began to expose caution and sobered up all together.

The receptionist at the counter, there's no radiance from her as seen in the other towns. Only looking down on Hajime with an expression of no motivation. I get the feeling that i should state my business quickly.

[I want information. Recently, was there any demi-humans which caused a commotion here in the Imperial capital a few days ago?]

[.....]

To Hajime's question, the receptionist gives Hajime a suspicious look. This is because the content of the question was strange.

You only have to go to the slave association of the merchant guild if you wanted information of a slave, even then slaves cannot cause a commotion in the Imperial capital. That is because a slave's collar seals off most of the resistance. And, Hajime's question does not change, what he's asking is something impossible in the Imperial capital unless they weren't a slave.

Result, the receptionist pointed towards the bar counter, whether its a regular system or it became too troublesome to deal with.

[.....Such information can be heard there]

As Hajime looks towards the counter, he sees the figure of a man past

middle age, polishing glass, apparently the bar also counted as a place for information gathering. The receptionist returned to doing what she was before, as if declaring that her work is done.

Hajime shrugs his shoulder and walks towards the bar counter.

There are dangerous glares appearing from the adventurers, Kouki and Ryutaro also react and glare back. Suzu seemed to be weak in these cases and shrinks back behind Shizuku. Holding the hem of Shizuku's clothes, she looked cute for a moment.

Hajime goes up to the counter and asks the same question to the bartender. However, the other party just kept polishing glass while disregarding it. Hajime's eyes narrowed.

Then,

[This here is a bar, Not a place for children to come and play around. I don't plan on having anything to do with people who can't drink. Leave quickly]

so he's looking for a drinking master*these 2 sentences are weird to me, i don't know what Tenpuremasuta is, though i understand its a refference to something*. Then I'll give him a drinking master! Hajime's tension began to increase. He's still just polishing glass to make it shiny, but he values his reputation. If you come here, and the liquor is drunk in great loads, he'll definitely be delighted.

Hajime, places money on the counter with an poker face while secretly being happy about being able to taste a fantasy game hero's feelings. From the darkness in the corner of his mind, a mini-Hajime asked, [You called?], peeping out.

[That's true. Master, I ask for the strongest and worst quality liquor you have in this shop]

[.....If you vomit, i'll kick you out]

The master, the moment Hajime ordered, reluctantly pulled out a bottle from the shelf behind him and his eyebrow twitched slightly as he placed it on the counter with a pikui~ sound.

Adventurers were all staring at Hajime because they felt cautious that he wasn't just a kid, they understood due to the pressure he released.

Hajime picks up the bottle and abruptly cuts the tip off with his finger tips. The action itself was fluid and people who understood held their breath. Even the master's eyes were widening a little.

A strong alcoholic smell drifts from the bottle as soon as it was open, Shia and Kaori who was by his side instinctively covered their nose due to the fumes. Kouki and them also backs away while groaning "Uu".

[hey, Nagumo-kun? So, do you have to drink that? Shouldn't you stop?]

[yes, that's right. you'll absolutely vomit. Suzu already seems to want to vomit]

[In the first place Hajime, lets have it be a better liquor if your going to drink it anyways]

[Its as Kaori says, Hajime. Why did you purposely ask for that one.....]

Shizuku and them relay their complaints without restraint. Yue by his side pulls the hem of his clothes while frowning from the smell of the liquor.

[No, its bad manners to not taste liquor thats open.... are you looking down on the liquor?]

Hajime replies as they're worrying.

A smile slightly appeared on the mouth of the master from the joke. Hajime thought, I got the master to smile! There must not be a lot of adventurers who respect the taste of liquor very often.

Hajime, [ah~] Kaori and the rest let out a voice as Hajime began drinking the liquor with horrible smell. Rather than pouring it into a cup he's drinking it directly. Hajime's mind seems to be calm but deep within, "*same problem as above for this sentence*see i am a drinking master, i've definitely lived up to your expectations." As the mini-Hajime explains in the mind, his left arm begins to ache.

Only the sound of [gokyu~ gokyu~] was heard echoing within the store

from his throat. And, in no time at all the whole bottle was drunk up in one go.

An empty bottle was held in Hajimes hand! When he puts it on the counter, the master looked at him while having a smile on his lips. Hajime's eyes conveyed [Any complaints?] towards the master.

[.....I get it, i get it. You are definitely a customer]

The master put up both hands and showed will of surrendering while smiling wryly. Its quite bitter sweet. Hajime's, "act with a master to gather information was finished" with that he was content with the outcome.

The liquor that Hajime drank was said to be 95 percent alcohol. [could it even be called a drink anymore?] the level of its quality was the worst as well. Its the feeling being treated to free alcohol.

They needed to prove themselves that they weren't just kids in order to get the master to have a different opinion of them.

By the way, Hajime has a constitution which will never get drunk no matter how much he drinks. The reason is because of "Poison Tolerance." Originally the delicious way of drinking liquor was instilled to him by his father while in Japan, though it was one of his best memories, its become impossible for him to get drunk completely because of "poison tolerance", so Hajime regretted for a moment.

[.....De? Is there any information on my question a little while ago? Of course I will pay a suitable value for it]

[No, I don't mind the same amount as the drinking money a while ago. .....You wanted to hear about the Hauria Usagininzoku right?]

[! .....There seems to be some information. Give me the details]

Apparently, the master actually had suitable information on the matter.

There seemed to have been a huge arrest several days ago, that time there was a group of Usagininzoku who tried to escape the empire soldiers through force. However, it wasn't possible and they were soon

completely surrounded by over 100 empire soldiers, It appears that they were taken to the castle when caught.

Still, the ability to overturn the common sense of the Usagininzoku was an excellent topic, due to the unusualness of the topic there was actually a lot of information throughout the town.

[Hee~, the castle.....]

When Hajime sees Shia by his side muttering, he notices that her complexion has become cloudy. Really, what kind of treatment will a demi-human receive if they invade the Imperial capital....at the very least we can't expect a bright future.

However, the place he was taken makes me anxious. Though there's also demand for male Usagininzoku, but males of middle age like Cam doesn't have very high demand. Moreover, the existence of these excessive empire soldiers practically showing off their power. It would be natural if he was executed immediately on the spot.

In other words, the empire finds some value in Cam, they've decided to make the best use of him. The possibility of Cam being alive is still very high. It's still too early to give up hope.

Hajime clenches Shia's hand under the counter in order to reassure her. Yue also does the same for her other hand. Hajime and Yue's feelings were transmitted to Shia, power returned to her eyes and she nodded.

The master looks at Shia's hair-color which is rare for demi-humans. The relation of the Usagininzoku that was caught could be guessed. Hajime suddenly asked an unexpected question to the master in a light tone.

[Master, if i paid the price, the Imperial castle, would you give me information on it?]

[! .....Though your question sounds like a joke.....It doesn't seem like a joke when i look at your appearance....]

Though Hajime was smiling, the eyes that looked straight at the master wasn't laughing at all.

Due to the strange pressure, even masters expression stiffened up a little. The content of the question is tricky as well, If answered unskillfully, the intention of aiding a rebellion will appear.

Mostly, because the adventurers guild is an independent organization, so there is no actual reason to have a "rebellion" in the empire. Hajime, having based his assumption of this, asked his question and put the master in a bind.

However, though the master is someone that belongs to the adventurers guild, it's also his home country, if it's known that he sold information on the castles stronghold, he wont get away scott free, therefore he cannot easily pass on that information. Because Hajime was starting to understand what the master was thinking he started applying pressure which caused the master to hesitate even more.

So, the master finally decided on telling Hajime of someone else who knew of the information to his question.

[.....There is a man by the name of Nedeiru in the fourth unit of the patrol group. He's a former jailer]

[Nedeiru. Alright, i'll visit him. We're indebted to you, master]

Because Hajime didn't think that master would tell information about the imperial castle to him, the next best thing would be telling him of someone else who knew.

Hajime left the adventurers guild and walked out onto the main street. Meanwhile, Shia asked Hajime about the exchanges from a while ago.

[Ano, Hajime-san. Being introduced to a former jailer person a little while ago, by any chance....]

[Ah. In order to hear about the details of the place, i intend to invade it tonight. Now then, Yue and I will go and collect information, you guys go off and eat a meal at a suitable place. We'll be back in two or three hours]

Shia's face changed to doubt after hearing Hajime's instructions.

[? Why is it only you two? ....Ha!? Surely, your not just trying to get some

time alone with Yue!? Always! Always!!]

[Na!? Is that so Hajime-san!? No, that's no good! Just what are you thinking in this situation!]

[Mu? Its always only Yue~. ....hey, husband. May i participate in the battle too?]

[Th, there's no way that would happen! How are we going to do that with the amount of people here. I'm not a guy who can't read the air]

With the suspicion of Shia and Kaori who sensitively reacts to it, and, to Teio that demands a 3P, Hajime instinctively threw out a tsukkomi.

Kui~Kui~ Hajime's sleeve was pulled. It was Yue with blushed cheeks glancing upwards at Hajime.

[.....We're doing it outside?]

[No, because we're not doing it]

[.....Then, we're doing it indoors?]

[No, its not a problem of where we do it. Please just leave it there]

[.....Muu, i understand. I'll prepare for the battle at night]

[The battle at night, you're talking about the invasion of the Imperial castle right? that's what you mean right?]

Yue's joke is clear. .....It must be a joke. Though her eyes had a sharpness to them which resembles a wild wolf about to prance on its prey with a bewitching atmosphere.

On the other hand, Shizuku who had been watching the exchanges of Hajime was considerably confused.

[O, How mature! It should be a conversation between classmates, but its a mature topic *slightly improvised*, what do we do Shizuku!]

[....Afterall what can i do. ....But, Kaori still? .....What should i do? should I be supporting my best friend here? Or should I scold them while its not too late? ....I don't understand. The level of the conversation is too high for me!]

With Suzu who was blushing and hiding herself behind Shizuku while squirming to keep the ero inside, and Shizuku was muttering things, [Are you Okan ka!*Probably a refference to something*] I tsukkomied. The hero was blushing slightly and the muscle for brains and passbyers A-B-C- through Z was affected by Yue's bewitching atmosphere.

[You guys stop it already.....The reason why its just Yue and me is because if Nedeiru isn't obedient, a politer "talk" will be needed, Yue who's accustomed to Reproduction magic will be useful.....]

[Even i can use Reproduction magic.....]

[Kaori, you should leave it to Yue this time.]

[Shizuku-yan.....]

Nedeiru was a soldier of the Empire, he wouldn't obediently give information about the Imperial castle. In other words "Force" will be used through questioning. And, Reprodction magic would be useful in order to use "Force" properly, its too severe for Kaori, Shizuku who guessed Hajime's intentions calms Kaori down.

Kaori also, she had guessed Hajime's intentions, "still" she wanted to be with him, she also wanted be of help to Shia, but because she understands that the soldier will likely not give information unless force was used she withdrew reluctantly.

Every member consented and while Hajime and Yue started disappearing into the crowd, Shia shouts out.

[Hajime-san! Yue-san! Ehtto, sono.....]

She doesn't appear to have the right words yet, a troubled smile appears on Hajime's face when he saw that Shia was stumbling with words. Surely, It was the same serious atmosphere she has in the labyrinths.

After all, Shia said the words with a smile and slightly embarrassed to Hajime.

[Keep H to a moderate level!]

[Its ruined! This damned rabbit!]

After Hajime shouted back, he grabbed Yue's hand and disappeared into the crowd.

Several hours later, they returned to where Shia and the group was on standby, Yue was strangely glossy and Hajime was haggard.

What exactly did they find out.....

Chapter 114 : Don't Fret, It's the Hauria

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

Imperial Capital of the Hoelscher Empire. In the corner of the restaurant on the first floor of the Inn, cold air flowed slightly.

Sitting down at the table where the cold air was being generated, was of course Hajime's group. After Hajime and Yue returned from gathering information, the females glared cold gazes at Hajime.

Especially, Shia and Kaori's eyes which were lacking all light, honestly, it was enough to make Hajime feel terror. Just behind Kaori, a Hannya*you know, that demon with the mask and long hair* started becoming visible.

[You seem to have had a great time?]

[Yue, is very glossy? What were you doing? Nee? What did you do? Nee, Nee]

There were no intonations in the voices from the two, the people from the next table couldn't endure any longer and also quickly left. Judging from the appearance of the two people, It wasn't possible to intervene at all, the waitress could only give Hajime a troubled look from afar.

The reason why this happened, was naturally, due to Yue being strangely glossy after returning, also because Hajime looked slightly haggard as well.

In other words, although they went out to gather information, what else could the 2 have done other than that! Their anger was building up

[……You've misunderstood. Yue is glossy because she sucked my blood?]

[[N?]]

both of them were misunderstanding Hajime's situation and were shocked when the truth was told. Due to unexpected answer, both of their faces became identically goofy looking.

[Did you guys really think I'd place my hands on Yue? Am I a dog in heat. Is that what you guys think? Eh?]

[Ah, ahahahahaha, of course not~, I knew it right away. I thought that would be the case. Ne, Nee, Kaori-san]

[Ye, yes! Of course, Shia. The amount of mana consumption from using Reproduction magic is harsh. I thought it was that from the beginning]

Hajime only had a sarcastic look in his eyes, Shia and Kaori's eyes swam around all over the place while trying to defend themselves.

Hajime, suddenly turns his sights to Shizuku's group. They immediately looked the other way while beginning to blush. It appears that they also misunderstood completely.

[Ha~a, oh well. Anyways, we got the information that we needed. Tonight, we'll sneak into the palace where Cam and the others are most likely being held. Though security seems to be quite severe, as long as Cam's group is found, we can quickly escape using space magic, so it shouldn't be that difficult. Only Yue, Shia, and I will be infiltrating. Just in case, since you guys can't use sign perception and teleport. You guys should meet up with Pal's group outside of the capital. Because we'll transfer directly there]

[.....We understand.....in the first place, is the information is correct? Isn't it possible that this Nedeiru guy lied.....]

[Thats probably not possible. After having his crotch flattened, then regenerating it before he loses consciousness, moreover it was actually crushed....a mans treasure, many times, repeatedly. Its just not possible for a man to endure it.....after we got him to spill out the information, Nedeiru was already shedding tears of relief while holding his hands over his crotch, even I could feel his pain]

Your the one that did it! is what Kouki and them really wanted to Tsukkomi, though they stopped and sighed instead because Hajime was unnaturally showing a sad expression. Shizuku's thoughts, after having felt chills, it's a relief that Kaori didn't go.

At the same time, Yue who grounded up and crushed the man's crotch many times, thought nothing of it at all, it wouldn't be odd for them to both be referred to as the "ball smashers" throughout the Empire, Kouki and Ryutaro while shivering, swore to never defy Yue. Their inner thighs became somewhat uncomfortable under the table.

[Na~a, Nagumo……right now, if Shia's family is in the Imperial castle, shouldn't you just ask for them back? Riri should be there too, I'm a hero as well…..I think we should manage if we just talk it out…..]

Kouki said, completely late with all the efforts that have already been put in.

Certainly, its as Kouki said, with Kouki's words as a hero, an appointment for Riria-na could be set up in order to ask for help. Rather than relying just on Hajime's raw power, negotiations was also a choice.

However,

[And what do they get out of it?]

[Eh?]

[Cam's group are invaders, what if they've already killed Empire soldiers? Moreover, although they completely surrounded the Usagininzoku, Cam's group became a completely different existence to them because they dealt damage to the Empire. Do you really think that they'd just hand them over for free?]

[That…..]

[They'll definitely want some sort of compensation. They'll definitely take complete advantage over it, there's too much risks. Also consider how they intend to save face as well. Even if they get freed it won't be over for them. Or, it will likely affect the princess who has to deal with the negotiations. Are you still fine with that?]

The possibility certainly exists, Kouki just kept quiet. Perhaps, he also wanted somehow help with the situation. There was that thing with the Demi-human slave a while back too, he couldn't ignore it and now continued to think about something.

~Hijiyo~ Hajime started to feel a bad premonition, he looked at Shizuku for an instant. And Shizuku said [Ah, this, this is bad] she noticed Kouki's expression. Apparently there are signs are recklessness appearing from Kouki.

Hajime's thoughts, though i never thought it would happen, when we invaded the Imperial capital, Kouki suddenly required "Huge Care" for his actions, I need to take the first move.

[Naa, Amanogawa. I have a request for you.....]

[Tsu!!!? wh....what? a request from Nagumo? .....Impossible.....]

Kouki stiffens up and becomes flabbergasted from the word, request, that Hajime suddenly said. Ryutaro and Suzu also did the same thing. Its as if they had discovered a UMA*Alien* in town by chance. A "request" from Hajime, judging from how he usually is, that word should have been impossible.

However, Hajime had expected that kind of reaction, though he was a little irritated, he didn't voice it out.

[Ah~, never mind, it's fine after all. I can't ask you to do such a dangerous thing. Sorry, forget about it]

[wa, wait, wait a second! First tell me what you want me to do.....]

He started to feel bad due to the atmosphere when Hajime was so quick to give up, Kouki easily took the bait.

[Nothing much, although i'll be invading the Imperial castle, security is too tight. That's why I want you to be a decoy to raise the success rate even by a little bit. ....For example, a person that is willing to rage and attract the Empire soldiers for the sake of helping the Demi-humans, like the inumimi boy from a while ago.... something along those lines. Ah, however, its too dangerous. Please forget about it]

Of course, there's no reason why Hajime wouldn't be able to invade the castle even if security was strict. Although, a decoy would be helpful, its not particularly necessary. simply, there was no other way but this. It would be bad if he went and did something reckless by himself, so i decided to give him a task to do. At the very least, it'll actually help! So that he doesn't try to say that he's coming along to the Imperial castle.....

[Decoy....those children.....do it. I'll do it! Nagumo! Please let me be the decoy!]

[O, oh, really, I understand, indeed, you are a hero.....alright. To such a wonderful hero, I'll give you this]

After saying so, Hajime pulls out some ores from his "Treasure Warehouse" and transmuted them into four masks.

The masks are divided by color, red, blue, yellow, and pink, its a full-faced helmet which makes you think about the heros of a certain crew. It was an ingenious design that didn't obstruct breathing or sight. An average Synergist wouldn't be able to create it at all. It was a useless skill that had been refined in vain without waste.

[.....Nagumo.....that's?]

[As you can see, a mask]

[.....Why?]

[Why you say, is it alright to have a hero raging around in the Imperial capital? Your identity would be known. Therefore, the mask's purpose is to hide your identity. In every country, the hero's identity must never be known. It begins with a masked hero, and it ends with a masked hero. I even color coated it so that you guys could tell each other apart]

[Eh? No, suddenly, with that kind of reasoning.....well, As for our true identities, we should definitely conceal it. We'll probably trouble Riri if found out....but, this.....]

Kouki looks at the masks with a cramped cheek.

[.....Don't worry about it hero(laughs). To you, the tidy leader, I'll give

you “Red”]

[……Naa, just now, did you attach something at the end of hero?]

[Sakagami*Ryutaro*, you’re blue. Blue shows a calm disposition. Though I hesitated to create a black and make you it instead, my judgement for you(Muscle for Brains) was that blue would be best. I think it was a good decision if I do say so myself]

[O, oh? Though I don’t really understand, you’re giving it to me]

[And Taniguchi*Suzu*, you……]

[P, pink right? right? I’m a little embarrassed……]

[You’re yellow. Eh? did you hear? You’re yellow. You’re easily happy, so your Yellow. In various meanings, you’re Yellow]

[……Nee, Nagumo-kun, by any chance do you hate Suzu*she refers to herself this way if you guys haven’t caught on yet*? That kind of thing?]

[And the last one is……Yaegashi*Shizuku*……]

[Please wait, Nagumo-kun. Though there’s only one remaining….but it can’t be right?]

[Yaegashi, of course, the remaining pink, it’s yours]

[I don’t want it! In the first place, Isn’t there other ways to hide a person’s identity rather than wearing masks? It should be fine if I just cover up myself with a cloth! Nagumo-kun, you, truthfully you’re only doing it for fun right!]

To Shizuku’s protest, Hajime feeling relieved, shrugs his shoulders. Shizuku’s cheeks have cramped up and are twitching because his attitude was unreasonable like a childs.

[Alright? Surely you can hide your identity! But. The mask fits on comfortably, it won’t fall off easily, and it’s shock absorbent. In addition, it’s so light you won’t even notice its on, and its endurance is so high that average attacks wouldn’t even scratch it]

[All, all those things in a single moment……what uselessly high

skills……]

[And Yaegashi, you're the cool beauty type and usually well defined, but in truth, you actually like cute things, its a classic. Therefore, I purposely and thoughtfully made you pink even if you said no. Show some gratitude]

[J, Just what are you assuming….wa, cute things, I, I don't particularly…..]

[Ah, you're right, Hajime-kun! Shizuku's room is filled with stuffed animals]

While Shizuku was desperately trying to deny Hajime's assumption, a betrayal emerged. Kaori exposed Shizuku's hobbies. On Shizuku's head, "!?", mark appeared.

[……..Thinking about it, she always loved animals back in the days. Especially, rabbits and cats.]

[!]

[Ah, the standby photo on Shizuku's phone was also a bunny rabbit ne~]

[!]

[Whenever we pass by the arcade, she always makes sure to play the UFO catcher game. Moreover, it's usually delicious*is this line supposed to be about her face while playing the game or something?*.]

[!]

[I see, and Shizuku-san would always stare and look at my Usamimi*Rabbit ears*.]

[! ! !]

[…..Yaegashi. Sa~a, take it. Pink….is yours]

Hajime was quietly holding out the pink mask with gentle eyes. For some reason, all other members also, watched her with a gentle expression. Before anyone was aware, the choice to not wear a mask, disappeared.

[.....What's up with this, this air.....though you guys say that, I, though I don't really like pink, but? I'll reluctantly take it, but don't misunderstand about this alright? Also, is there any person out there that doesn't like small animals? That's why, this time only, there's no other reason....so, stop looking at me with those gentle looking eyes!]

Even as her ears were reddening, Shizuku honestly received the mask.

While trying to deny it desperately and embarrassingly, Shia quietly said, [If it's Shizuku-san, do you want to touch my Usamimi a little?] an empty effort that destroyed the dere aspect of friendship.

By the way, After Hajime finished pushing the 4 to their positions, he was snarling.

The plan was, if 4 people wearing masks suddenly appear and make a huge commotion in town, their names would exceed the 2 names that the Hauria game to him.

In reality, during the time where he was talking with Pal's group, it seems that he held a grudge against them for laughing at the names he was called by. Moreover, because their color coated, they won't be called by their names directly, it'll be enough agony to make them want to conceal themselves up in a mountain.....

While thinking about how to stop Kouki's recklessness, the intentions to scheme his revenge also appeared, Yue had a look that was slightly amazed.

~~~~~~

Midnight.

There were innumerable rooms fitted with grates and not one light in the darkness existed. The grates were made from special metals, it formed a solid barrier and there were carved magic formations on the ground, as if declaring in silence that they'll never let the people in the small rooms escape.

There was a nasty smell generated from the filth and blood, it was extremely dirty, even if they couldn't see properly they could tell.
~~~~~~

What is this terrible place, Of course, it was the prison which was purposed to restraining prisoners, it was also considered as the dungeon in the castle of the Hoelscher Empire.

As expected, a jail worthy of the Imperial castle, the quality of the metal ore that was used to create the dungeon was certainly excellent, the magic formations carved on the ground in order to not let any prisoners escape was also excellent.

Any person that attempts to break out, or anyone sneaking in will definitely die, there were also traps engraved onto the walls that seemed to be extremely painful when tripped, but, as long as the aria that releases the trap is not recited properly it'll be fine, though in the first place, arbitrary actions might have been predicted and sealed off already.

With that, there is no possibility of being able to break into the prison, while being tormented by the putrid smell without even one light, if someone is placed in a cell, an ordinary man would go insane in just a day. Guards are situated in front of the only door leading down from the outside, their replacement schedules are much longer during the night time.

However, despite being one of the worst places, now, for some reason there were many voices heard.

[Oi, how many did you break today?]

[All his fingers, and 2 ribs....You?]

[Hehe, it's my win. All his fingers and 3 ribs I believe?]

[Ha, only to that extent? I broke 7 ribs and his cheekbones.....and also one of his Usamimi's]

[Are you serious? Just what did you do? Though they don't really care how we beat them, they specifically said not to put our hands on their Usamimi's....]

[Na~Ni*What*, it's just the usual, who's the person that you're working for? because, he never answered my question properly. .....Then he said. "It's your mother. I'm your new father, so I came to check up on my son."]

[Uwaa~, I guess, anyone would lose their temper over that....]

[But, those fellows, their Usamimi's aren't dropping down at all, maybe they've received orders? it might be something like disobeying us*Improvised this line, couldn't get its true meaning*.....]

[Ah~, they'll definitely be disposed of. Kekeke, I can't get enough of this stuff~!]

When I heard them, they were boasting of who inflicted the most damage. Though they didn't die because the minimum amount of recovery magic was used, to have the courage to talk about it in the middle of the room, the owners of the voices state that their prisoners are all covered in wounds.

Still holding it in and enduring it, the identities of those being joked about was, the Hauria that were caught by the Empire.

They, competing who dealt the most injuries, weren't particularly out of order. As they've already prepared themselves for it.

Since being placed into the dungeon in the castle, they already expect not to live anymore. Were they to be executed, or turned into slaves.....It seems to have been the latter case, because they'll likely try to commit suicide when an opening shows, as expected, they have no will to live. As they would only be forced to fight against their own family, it would only be a nightmare, so they've resolved themselves beforehand.

And, they don't have any power because, they intend to go out with a bang.

The Empire, because the Hauria's abilities are too far apart from common sense, they're suspecting that someone is plotting something behind them.

Moreover, even if that wasn't true, his Majesty the Emperor likes the Hauria tribe, he seems to want to use them as pawns for his empire army. Battle operations, able to use weapons, and fighting spirit, a method of changing the gentle Hauria, the Hauria tribe was like a treasure box for his Majesty which liked strong people.

The Hauria who suspects as much, until their lives were finally extinguished, will continue to defy the empire. Because their resolutions were already made, it was foolish to waste time torturing them.

By the way, being put in this dungeon covered with wounds, they're still tortured in the name of questioning in their cells, The hauria tribe still showed a confident smile, most of the empire soldiers that saw their confidence showed fear in their eyes.

[This time, the chief was quite grand as well.....]

[Thats right. .....Naa, while we have the chance, want to have a competition with the chief to see who can handle the most injuries?]

[Oh? Sounds good. Then, my Usamimi's would be complete]

[No, you, it'll be a great loss right?]

[No, the chief is starting to sound more and more like boss. .....especially when training recruits.....]

[Ah, just as if the boss was possessed huh. When being verbally abused like that.....its impossible.....]

[Ma~a, if the boss was caught in the first place, normally he'll try to destroy everything from the inside even when caught!]

[Rather, don't you get the feeling that the Imperial capital is crying? surely, disappearing from the map.]

[Boss is relentless afterall!]

[Because he's an ogre!]

[No, he's the Devil!]

[Then, looks like he's the Demon Lord]

[Oi, oi, doesn't that make him sound like the lord of Majinzoku's. Compared with the boss, the Demon Lord is an insect that can't even compare. An insect]

[Then.....the most devilish inspired malevolent god?]

[[[[[[[[[Thats it!]]]]]]]]]

[……You guys are fairly energetic? This “Beep” guy……It’s been a long time but it seems you guys have gotten much more talkative? Eh~?]

[[[[[[[[[…….]]]]]]]]]

The voice that was filled with anger that affected the Hauria sounded out from the dark.

It was a very familiar voice, the Hauria fell silent and froze. Inside the darkness, their breaths became shallow as if they were small animals waiting for a carnivore to pass by.

[Oi, Kora. Why are you guys falling silent for. I’m the Ogre, demon, Satan, malevolent god? right?]

[Hahaha, hey, guys. I, it seems like I’ve finally made it to that point. ……I’ve begun hearing hallucinations at last……]

[Feel relieved, you’re not the only one. ……I’m the same]

[Is that so……you guys too……but that last voice sounded like bosses angry voice……]

[At least allow us to hear the voice of a cute woman before our end]

The voice from the other party that wasn’t there should have been properly heard, but the Hauria treats it as a hallucination in order to escape reality.

To such people, Hajime the owner of the voice, pointed out the reality. Yue that was nearby pulls out a sphere of light, the darkness in the dungeon was completely wiped out. And, the appearance of Hajime was clearly seen inside the Imperial castle.

[[[[[[[[[Gee, boss------!!?]]]]]]]]]

[Quiet down you idiots]

[……You look energetic?]

[Looks and feels like it, though we’re in pretty bad shape……our worries have faded away though.]

Everyone of the Hauria tribe, while suffering from a extremely cruel

injuries, being kept in a dirty prison, though they're not in the state to stand up, their wild voices raised as if meeting their own clones.

Hajime, Yue, and Shia, the Hauria were amazed.

[Wh, why, is the boss at such a place.....]

[Save the talk for later. First of all, we've come to rescue you guys. .....Jeez, although you guys are in tatters up you're quite spirited. Just how tough are you guys]

[Wa, wawa, obviously, its because we were trained by boss]

[Compared to our training with boss, being tortured by the empire soldiers is practically like playing a game]

[It's like their thirst for blood wasn't enough? It was too lukewarm, they were even considerate enough to nurse us]

[Ma~a, bosses thirst for blood, is on the level of where in just one moment there is an illusion of being killed in hundreds of different ways, there's no helping it]

While coughing ~Gefug Gefuu~ and blood, towards the words that the Hauria were joking around with, an indescribable gaze came from Yue and Hajime, looking at Shia.

When that happened she coughed ~Gohon~ to try and deceive Hajime, the traps in the dungeon were confirmed by the Magic Eye, it was then conveyed to Yue and Shia. And, dismantling the traps quickly began.

The magic trap formations, usually, without the correct aria(Key) it cannot be released. But it was being neutralized through the process of dispersing the magic put into the magic formation by operating it through aria.

Though there is the method of directly destroying the formations as well, however usually, the moment it's broken, it'll activate, because there are functions which alarm the other formations that one has been broken, so releasing them all by aria is actually the only way.

However, this method only works for the person that placed the magical

powers into the aria. conversely, if the person can directly manipulate magic, it's possible to dismantle them without allowing them to set off other traps even without a key.

Hajime's group completely neutralized the Imperial castles dungeon which the Empire is so proud of, the Cells are opened one after another through transmuting from Hajime, all members of the Hauria were also completely recovered through Yue's Reproduction magic.

[Ha~a, as ridiculous as always huh. For the time being, boss……]

[[[[[[[[[Thanks for coming to save us!]]]]]]]]]

[O. Ma~a, it was for Shia. She was worried. Moreover, I don't see Cam's appearance. …..Do you know where he is?]

[About that…..]

One of the Hauria began to speak, apparently Cam is currently being interrogated, the position of the interrogation room was also told.

They, by all means, also wanted to rescue their Chief! Though they appealed for it, they weren't allowed to help out, because they also understood that leaving it to Hajime and them who already invaded this place would be best, believing in Hajime's words they entrusted it to them.

In the first place, their bodies began shaking intensely because of Hajime's "Order"…..

Hajime, a metallic plate about the size of his palm was taken out from the "Treasure Warehouse." It had a lustrous gray shine, there's a magic formation carved on the handle and the tip was jagged, it was basically shaped like a key.

In front of the confused Hauria, Hajime pours magic into the key type plate, then he pushed it out slowly into the space in front.

Then, the tip of the key type plate pierced through the space in front, a ripple formed and expanded vertically. The ripple gradually grows until it became the size of an adult human being, then Hajime literally twisted

the key type plate with a ~guri~ just like a normal key.

Immediately after that, a “hole” extends around the Key type plate, when it fully extended out to a size of an adult human being the Hauria were popeyed, the rock zoned area could be seen on the other side.

[Alright, all of you pass through this. On the other side is the rock zone that’s a little bit to the left of the Imperial capital. Pal and the rest are on standby there]

[Yes Sir! Boss, please take care of the chief]

Though the Hauria were dumbfounded at the lack of common sense that occurred, it was the Ha in Hajime! When they regained their consciousness, it was obviously due to the boss! as soon as they finally understood, they saluted wonderfully. And, they passed through the gate created by the artifact without hesitation, the fellows with Usamimi’s were trained well.

What Hajime took out was, an artifact that produces a gate for super-long distance space transfer.

It was a pair key type artifact, “Gate Key”, and the keyhole artifact, “Gate Hall”, when thrusting out the gate key into space this process was “Opening the Lock”, the gate then connects the space to the place in the gate hall that is set up before hand in order to be transferred to it. Of course, it was created with a combination of space magic and creation magic.

When the Hauria were transferred, the gate is used again to “Lock” the hole in space shut, Hajime and the rest then headed for the place that Cam was being kept.

The severe security was broken through by skills and magic, they quickly reached the location.

The person at watch outside was quickly knocked out silently and they arrived in front of the door, an angry voice could be heard from the inside.

Shia’s expression freezes. She had prepared herself because an injured Cam would likely be on the other side, the feelings of worrying about a

tattered family member began to well up.

Its seen, so Hajime put his hand on the doorknob and was about to open it at once, but he stopped instinctively because of the angry voice that came from the other side.

[What, make a firmer fist first! Are you even a soldier of the Empire! Use your hip more, you “Beep” that is only useful to “Beep”! You’re just like a “Beep” thats been “Beep”! A new born kittens fists is better than yours! What happened! Are you mortified, at least break a bone! If you can’t, you’re just “Beep” after all!]

[Sh, shut up! Why do i have to listen to anything you say!]

[Get those hands moving if you have time to move that mouth of yours! Is your hand “Beep” is it your lover, huh? Ah, in the end your lover must also be a “Beep” too huh? You “Beep” and “Beep” are well matched for each other!]

[D, damn you! Natasha is not that kind of woman!]

[St, stop Johann! You shouldn’t do that! This guy will die!]

[Shit, is that fellow there a “Beep” as well. The empire’s soldiers, every single one of them are “Beeps” huh! Or better yet, why don’t you guys just rename yourselves to “Beep”! You pair of “Beep”! You’re both about equal, how about showing some murderous intent!]

[What was that! What did this guy just say! This guy can’t possibly be a Usagininzoku! Somebody answer me!]

[I’ve had enough of this! When I talk with this guy, I feel like I’m going to lose my mind!]

such a shout leaks out from the door and is heard.

Everyone was quiet. While looking down at his own hand that was on the doorknob, he began to doubt himself of this event that went against common sense, the empire soldiers that were supposed to be questioning Cam, were actually being cornered instead.

[Naa, is our help necessary?]

[……lets return?]

[……Say, sorry for now, but please help him. Because I don't think he'll be able to leave by himself…..]

Shia yearns for the gentle father of the past, she asked Hajime while looking far-off into the distance. Actually, we would definitely have to help Cam because he doesn't have the power to get away by himself…..

[Shit, do you know how to do anything besides moving your lips. I am the dark hunting ogre from the wriggling abyss, Cam von fantasy, L F light, the rhode rear, to become the enemies of the Hauria, its still much too early!]*Yeah, this whole line was a huge mess, I don't really know what i was doing here*

From the other side, something with incredibly bad sense was said.

[……Shia, your father, something amazing was just said]

[……The more you think about it, the more confusing it gets]

[Uu…..does my father have a grudge against me? Trying to kill his own daughter through embarrassment]

Shia was crouched down and covered both her hands over her face. The amount of damage seems to have been serious.

And, as for the condition of serious damage, the interrogators were also the same.

[I've already told you, I don't get it! Damn, I don't want this anymore! If I have to stay with this madman any longer i'll go insane! I'm going home!]

[Wait, Johann! What about work! In the first place, what's with those lines, its sinister so stop it!]

The sound approaching the door could be heard ~Dota Dota~.

Hajime then thought, [As expected, it was too much for them huh~], he then formed a fist in front of the door.

And, the moment that the door is loudly opened, his fist thrusted out.

One of the interrogator's called Johann, for an instant [Eh?] his face was full of surprise and astonishment, the fist of steel was buried in his face the next second and he was blown back into the room.

Hajime then, steps into the room, fortunately similarly, the other interrogator was stunned as well and in that instant he was also knocked out.

And, the two people that were knocked out instantaneously formed a bad pose with their bodies. Whoever discovers this would have a variety of misunderstandings.

[It can't be.....is that you....boss?]

[Ahh, what to say, even though you're in tatters you still abused them with words. .....You've become strong, in various amounts of ways.....]

To begin with, it was in the meaning of the 2 that were just blown away a moment ago.

[Ha, hahaha. It seems like I'm not dreaming....O~o, Yue and Shia as well]

For a moment, Cam seems to have thought it was a dream, he replied to Hajime with more power this time, though he's more tattered than the other Hauria's were. His intellectual powers haven't dropped either, he seemed to have immediately guessed that Hajime and them came to help.

[Jeez, I've shown you guys a bad appearance even though we've finally been reunited. Moreover I was busy abusing the damn empire fellows, I didn't even notice your presences.....Jeez, it's shameful]

[.....Father, I don't think it was that kind of problem anymore. You need to quickly get to a hospital. Of course, for the treatment of your head.....in the first place, with those wounds why are you so energetic]

[through willpower?]

[.....Hajime's demon remodeling....how fearsome]

The constrained Cam was truly embarrassing, he scratched his head with a finger that was broken in a suitable direction towards his head

I'm not actually sure if its with his broken finger or non-broken finger. His thoughtless answer was tsukkomied by Shia.

Yue who was using Reproduction magic, stared at Hajime rather than Cam with a frightened look. Hajime's thoughts. Truly frightening, rather than "Sergeant HarOman" was I the pathogen of "chuunibyou"……
Thanks Endo

Cam jumps up and down ~Pyon Pyon~ confirming that his body had completely recovered, Hajime then took out the gate key again.

[I've already sent off the other guys first. Lets quickly leave]

[Yes, Sir! Ah, boss, about our equipment that was taken away….]

[Ahh? Just leave it, just leave it. With my current transmuting skills I can make more and better equipment than before, so lets just do that]

[I'll be able to enjoy new equipment? With that, my tension's shot up, kukuku]

To Cam who was laughing suspiciously, Shia pushed him into the gate and entered together, Hajime and Yue also went into the gate.

After that, the mysterious masked group causing a disturbance in the Imperial capital and the Hauria tribe that was in the Imperial castle both disappeared suddenly, It's needless to say, the Hoelscher empire was in an uproar until morning.

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Extra

At night of the Imperial capital where alarm bells resounded, suddenly, light surges out, at the shack district where Demi-human slaves who are engaged in removing stones are staying and sleeping, the soldier post there was blown away. Apparently it was an attack that was held back greatly, only the building flew, the soldier inside seemed to be safe. Though the majority of them had fainted.

The shadow of 4 people could be seen with the moon shining behind them in a grand manner.
~~~~~~

[Who are you guys! Don't think you'll get away after defying the Empire!]

The person who looked like the head of the platoon said out angrily towards the shadows.

[Furthermore, furthermore……wearing those funny looking masks! Are you guys fooling around or what!]

[Eh? No, we're not exactly fooling around…..]

[No matter how you look at it its foolishness! Especially, the pink colored one!]

[!?]

[Do you feel that you're showing off your cuteness or something!? I only feel sick when I see that mask! You damn sex offenders!]

[!? ……I didn't have the intention to show off my cuteness. ……And its not like I like that kind of stuff in the first place……I was forcefully…..It's not my fault……]

[Wait a second, don't mind what the uncle with the ugly face says Shizu…don't make fun of Pink! Suzu…..Yellow will really get mad!]

[Thats right! Shizu…it's alright to like pink and cute things! Thats enough, if you hurt Pink anymore, I……Kamen*Mask* Red won't forgive you!]

[A~, for the time being, Kamen Blue also won't forgive you~]

As Kamen Pink's shoulder dejectedly drops, all the other Kamen shout back at the empire soldiers.

The masked groups goal was, to cause an uproar in the Imperial capital, in order to help Hajime's group to invade the castle easier….Hajime who accurately saw through Shizuku's facade, in order to stop Kouki from doing reckless things it was unavoidable unless another task was given to him, definitely when they return, she swore in her heart that she would get revenge on him.

While Kamen Pink was being depressed, the heated up empire soldiers

suddenly, [Immediately catch those annoying masked guys!] and attacked. However, although they aren't equal to Hajime and his groups power, even still, they were summoned from another world, in other words, cheaters. The ordinary soldiers wouldn't stand a chance, one after another they were kicked about.

[Damn it all! Those damn masked guys are all too strong!]

[Damn you, Pink~]

[More like, that sword that Red is holding, I get the feeling that I've seen it before....]

The angry groan while laying on the ground was cursed out from the empire soldier. About 3 platoons were already unable to battle. The commander couldn't endure any longer and shouts out.

[Damn, you fellas, just exactly what is your purpose!]

to the question, Kamen Red stopped and declared loudly.

[I demand that all Demi-humans conditions are improved immediately!]

[.....Ha~a?]

[Your speech and behaviors towards Demi-humans are too intolerable! Stop indiscriminately hurting them!]

Towards the impossible request given to the Empire soldiers, [What's that guy saying?], and they looked at each others expressions. That sounds about right. What Kamen Red and the others saw happening during the daytime, was common sense. Even if they were to suddenly be told to do that, they simply don't understand.

[Ku, what, the attitude.....it's just how things are done.....]

[This....Red. The insane ones, it's unfortunate but it's probably us. Don't forget about our other purpose as well]

[I know! But, at the very least just the children....]

[Do you know how many people that is. Do you plan on helping every child that you see? also, it should be almost time. ....Even I'm feeling

mortified about this, but, now, lets properly focus on our objective]

[.....Yeah, your right]

Masked Red, withdrew reluctantly in understanding.

[Empire soldiers, Listen here. Our behavior is due to an arbitrary decision. So, the slaves had nothing to do with it so don't put the blame on them. If, you guys do something like that....]

[Wh, what is it you want to say.....]

[Tonight, behind you when you're taking a shower, when you've woken up and look at of your stomach, in an alley where there shouldn't be anyone else, under the desk, the gaps through the curtains, the edge of the mirror, in your dreams.....you'll always see a mask]

The empire soldiers towards the words that Kamen Pink indifferently said without intonations, all swallowed their saliva at once, and thought, [Scary....]. It was certainly a Horror film.

The masked group, after completing their goal said, [To~u!], that kind of feeling and jumped down from the building and into the back alley. And then, the Empire soldiers rushed after them in a panic, but they completely disappeared like phantoms.

Later, among the soldiers of the Empire, [Fear Kamen Pink~that fellow is always looking at you], an urban legend was spread, but that is another story.

Why, because when you're alone....., the person in the Pink mask breaking down is also another story.

~~~~~~

Extra 2

[That is all I have to report!]

[Good work, you may leave]

[Ha]

After the resounding footsteps of the subordinate that left disappeared
~~~~~~

for a while, Hoelscher Empires Emperor, Gaharudo D. Hoelscher, turned his sights onto the girl who had been talking a while ago.

It was Riria-na S.B. Hairihi, princess of Hairihi Kingdom with a cleansed face, when she noticed Gaharudo's glance, [It seems to be quite serious?], in a worried voice, a troubled smile was returned. As a princess of the neighboring country, anxiety could be felt due to the report heard just a while ago, however she knew not to interfere because she would only get in the way, such an expression was shown.

[Jeez, I'm troubled. Just after dealing with a ridiculously strong demon some ridiculously strong masked people show up, the strength of those 4 were certainly not a joke.....about this matter, what do you think about it? Princess Riria-na]

[.....I, don't understand? Still, maybe it was the Majinzoku behind the scenes again? Because an impossible demon was used before, there may also be impossibly talented people as well?]

[yeah, that's right. .....There's a possibility of that. For example, one of those guys were able to freely manipulate high level magic with ease, there was even one with a sword that gave off a dazzling light, na?]

[.....yes, that's right. It's a fearsome thing]

[Ah~, definitely. After being asked what their purpose was they started blabbering about improving the treatment of Demi-humans and their labor conditions, It's very frightening when its too incomprehensible, is what I think]

[that's, right]

Riria-na's expression doesn't collapse.

Gaharudo was amusingly observing Riria-na, it was an impregnable smile guard. Thats because, rather than a smile pasted on, it was an indispensable royal family secret skill, able to change their smiles depending on the current situation without fail.

However, Gaharudo did not not miss the slight moment where her breath was disturbed.

[By the way, Princess Riria-na]

[Yes?]

[Right now, where is Hero-kun?]

[.....The hero, presently, he's out traveling. In order to earn experience and power]

[Gee, and here I thought he surely came to the Imperial capital? And, I remember hearing about the emancipation of slaves from someone before as well]

[Oh dear, Emperor Gaharudo about what you've just said, have you confused speculation as truth? There's no way that would have happened right?]

[Hahaha, of course! Speculation without proper grounds cannot be considered a fact]

[Fufufu, yes, thats right]

After a while, [Hahaha], [Fufufu], the laughter of the Emperor and Princess resounded throughout the reception room.

Seemingly, though it looked like Riria-na had confidence, in her heart.

(What are you guys doing! Kouki and co.---!! I mean, why masks!? There should have been many other ways to hide your identities! To begin with, using your sacred sword will obviously reveal your true identity! What a bad prank! Absolutely, it was definitely someone's prank! And, the only one who would do this is definitely Nagumo-san desu! Why, because of his prank, I the Princess have to deal with this stifling conversation with the Emperor! He always treats me casually too, but unexpectedly the things he does causes a lot of damage. Even though I'm the princess)

is, what she screamed inside.

Apparently, Hajime's masks were made in vain, their true identities were found out by both countries.

Chapter 115 : Gung Ho Once Again

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

Cam was rescued, Hajime's group passed through the gate and teleported to where Teio and the other Hauria were standing guard at the rock zone, when they appeared they were greeted with the Hauria's enthusiastic welcome.

All of the Hauria pat each other on the shoulders, bumped their stomachs with one another, cross countered their arms, and they were all screaming as they were pleased that everyone returned safely.

At that time, Hajime's ears were filled with the loud shouts of joy which drowned out all the surrounding sounds.

Hajime's hand rose out with extremely natural movements. A familiar katana in a black sheath was gripped and held out.

[.....What do you plan on doing with that, Yaegashi?]

The identity of the assailant which attacked Hajime with the black katana while still in its sheath was Shizuku Yaegashi. Shizuku's blade was caught in the fingertips of Hajime's hand, she clicks her tongue when he wasn't phased at all even though she's applying all her strength in the attack.

[.....I'm only relying on Nagumo-kun to relieve some stress. It's alright, I, believe in Nagumo-kun. Your caliber is deeper than the Mariana trench.....so, obediently! Allow me! To hit the octopus!]

[Ah~, Un, you didn't want to be Pink that much? .....I prepared that with good intentions in mind]

[Thats definitely a lie! I know what your intention was! It was absolutely

a prank! Somehow I was pulled into the atmosphere! In a sense, I got what I deserved! ----As so, I can't help but beat it into you, these feelings! If you're a man then accept them!]

[Nna, how unreasonable.....]

Apparently Pink has suffered more damage than initially thought.

Certainly, it would have been fine if she declined, it was the natural consequences of being caught up in the atmosphere and accepting the mask. But, even though she understands that, it was obvious that it was Hajime's speech and behavior which tricked her to be verbally abused by the empire soldiers, Shizuku couldn't help but snarl.

Most of all, Hajime and Shizuku's difference in ability is clear, actually, there was no signs of the black sheath which was making a ~Gichi Gichi~ noise overcoming that difference at all. So, reluctantly, Shizuku's black katana's ability-- she decided to release it. Literally, even Hajime would feel some pain if it was a direct hit, hoping that, she put her trust in it.

[You~! "Run rampant, Thunder flower"!]

[Oh? Oh~h]

However, while gripping the black sword which was discharging electricity, rather than being painful, Hajime's appearance was that of someone who feels admiration. Shizuku unintentionally shouted out a tsukkomi.

[Wait a sec, Nagumo-kun. Why are you still fine even though electricity is being released?]

[No, it's nothing much, you should have seen me shoot out railguns numerous times already. I use thunder with my own flesh, there's no way this degree of electricity would be enough then right? Rather than that, you did well to be able to activate that function.]

[Ku, it can't be helped then.....I'll withdraw this time. However, I'll hit that calm face one day. And also, this was due the results of all the synergists at the Kingdom.]

Shizuku withdrew reluctantly and gave a reasonable answer. Kouki and the rest were popeyed in the back. It appears that they've just returned. Shizuku's unexpected actions caused them to be surprised.

Kaori and Yue just keep staring at Shizuku from somewhere. Then whispered, [.....For Shizuku-chan to be snarling....] [.....We were too reliant on her], was said, it appears that the two were only having a playful exchange with one another.

[Boss, is this a good time?]

Finally, it seems that Cam's group was finished celebrating, they came forward towards Hajime. With their serious expressions, Hajime as well, it didn't seem like it would be a greeting of reuniting again.

Hajime quickly transmuted chairs in a circle and with a glance, conveyed for them to sit down.

[First, although a lot of things happened, putting it simply, it seems we went a little overboard.....]

was said, when summarizing from when Cam's story began, it can only be stated that way.

In order to gain more Demi-humans slaves, The soldiers came into the battered Sea of Trees, Cam's group of Hauria had gained substantial numbers, and defeated them. The empire soldiers seemed to be extremely cautious of their surroundings. Their comrades kept on disappearing outside of the combat zones, and when they were found, their necks showed signs of assassinations.

The group specializing in the assassinations were a mystery, the Empire had no way of confirming their true identities. Then they thought out a plan. It was an encirclement of the Imperial capital. In short, they were inviting their foes.

Cam's group easily blundered and fell for the trap, but, it could only be said that it was because there was no telling when the empire might set foot into the Sea of Trees.

Or, many Demi-humans were captured and the blood went into their

heads as they weren't able to overlook it, they might have rushed in too quickly when they saw a chance. The empire's attack burned down the edge of the Sea of Trees and while passing through the fog they were torturing the Demi-human slaves, the unjust methods may have also been the cause.

In the case that Fair Bergens was in its usual state, they would have likely been able to fight while moving in an organised manner, it's likely that they also knew that it was attacked by demons. Time is of the essence.

It was unthinkable in their miserable state, Cam's group wasn't completely calm either.

And, the Empire soldiers were likely the same. After all, the mysterious group carrying out the assassinations caught in the net were none other than the gentle Usagininzoku which would never be accused of fighting. Moreover, It was not the Sea of Trees, they made full use of cooperation to surround an empire soldier and fought equally. Naturally, the lack of common sense caught the higher up's interests.

As a result,

[We were captured alive, and were interrogated day after day. The other side was mainly interested on how the Hauria tribe had changed so suddenly and where they got their equipment, and, they intended to go to Fair Bergen. It appears that they mistook us as Fair Bergen's secret force……actually, the whole clan was close to being executed, if our relations were found out it's likely that it wouldn't end with just banishment]

The interrogators, asked for the relationship of Fair Bergen and themselves, though it was said various times that they had a rather hostile relationship with them, it was taken as a self-sacrificial action in order to protect their own country. Especially because they had fearless smiles even when his Majesty the Emperor came to watch the interrogations, his eyes shined like a child who found a new toy.

[And? what's with your excuses for becoming captives? Just hurry and

speak of the main subject]

[Pardon me, boss. Then, the main subject, we gathered many more new family members for the Hauria in order to create a new Hauria tribe*I think thats what he means, 我々ハウリア族と新たに家族として向かえ入れた者を合わせた新生ハウリア族は*.....With that we picked a war with the empire]

Cam declared with an accomplished sharp look in his eyes, the time for all those around stopped.

Under the illusion, Hajime and excluding everyone in Cam's Hauria tribe, all movements stopped and became stiff. Whether they haven't understood yet, or due to the surprise of the idea. Silence filled the surroundings, the cries of insects could be heard in the rock zone during the night.

It was Shia who broke the silence.

[What, what are you talking about, father? Did I hear it wrong? Just now, I was supposed to hear the reason why my family was fighting against the empire.....]

[Shia, you didn't mishear. We hauria tribe, picked a war against the empire. I definitely said that]

[Don't, don't, don't say such foolish things! Just what were you thinking! Certainly, you guys have become strong, but don't you guys only have around 100 people? Even then to fight the empire? Have you gone mad! Because of the resentment of being robbed of the same race, you've become unable to judge properly right!?]

[Shia, thats not it. We're sane. listen to.....]

[I don't have to use my Usamimi's to listen! If its not revenge, you're just getting full of yourselves then? If so, take up your weapons right now! I'll be your opponent before you guys fight the empire. Allow me to cut down that extended nose of yours!]

In an excited state, Shia took out Doryukken out of the "Treasure Warehouse", and one rotation was made with the strong style and a ~Bishi~! Shia pointed it towards Cam's nose. Her expression was way past

recklessness, it was nothing but pure rage at the thought of Cam and the others who had decided on the suicide attack.

Shia's magic power pours out around her body in a light blue color with physical pressure which overpowered them, it even exceeded the top Hero's from a different world which would be considered cheats.

Truthfully, this rage of unimaginable power is not something you'd expect from Shia who's always energetically laughing, Kouki's group were holding their breaths. However, Cam who had Doryukken pointed at him with enough power to cause the hero's to flinch, only quietly stared at Shia just like the surface of calm water.

They stare at eachother, or, while holding their breaths everyone was staring at the two, as expected this man moved, it was Hajime. Before anyone was aware, Hajime had already approached Shia from behind, as if Shia was a wild animal he grabbed her fluffy bunny tail to calm her down, suddenly rubbing it was beyond strange.

[Hiyaan~!? Don't~, that place is no good~! Hajime-Shan*Not a typo*, shtop it~]

Actually, in a different sense it felt better than having her Usamimi's felt, when her bunny tail was being felt by Hajime it started "feeling good".

Shia fell onto all fours, started leaking out hot sighs ~Haa Haa~, and stared at Hajime reproachfully. However, her eyes were wet and feverish too, she was only emphasizing her charming figure and nothing else in this situation.

In the intimidating situation, everyone was popeyed because in an instant the atmosphere turned pink. There were also a few in the group that were slouching over too.

Disregarding their surroundings, this time Hajime stroke Shia's Usamimi's. Although it wasn't in an erotic way like before, it was gentle like driving away the pain. Though Shia glared at Hajime reproachfully who started sexually harassing her in the middle of a serious talk, soon it became eyes that seemed pleasant.

[How about it, have you calmed down a bit? Cam's story isn't finished yet. It wouldn't be too late to blow them all away after first hearing everything right?]

[U~.....that's right.....I'm sorry. Too much blood went into my head for a moment. I'm alright now. I'm sorry father]

[What's bad about worrying about your family? There's no need to apologise. like-wise, I should have listen to your words as well. .....Thanks for everything recently, I tend to forget those concerns. .....Even so, kukuku]

[Wh, what is it, father, laughing like that....]

[No, I only hope for your happiness above all else. .....You seem to be loved a fair bit by the boss? Un? When will I be able to see my grandchild's face?]

[Na, gryand, gryandchild*she mispronounces it* you say.....what are you saying, father! We, we haven't, I.....]

Cam was teasing her, Shia glances upwards at Hajime frequently while her face was bright red-hot. All the Hauria that sees it were smirking greatly. Really, each and every person showed good personalities. Hajime, while thinking of such things, ignored it lightly and asked Cam.

[Cam, though I wouldn't have believed it, about that talk, you're not expecting me to participate are you?]

[Haha~, there's no way I would. Only, the reason this decision was even possible was due to the boss for training us. Therefore, our decision is our own, at least thats what I believe]

Cam denies Hajime's question while laughing. It appears that they really plan on only doing it by themselves.

However if that happens, the decision couldn't be anything but recklessness, so they began to worry about the reason that led to such a decision. Shia as well, Cam and them were getting too full of themselves with their power, they were really serious about not going at it for revenge as well, a sorrowful expression is shown.

[Whats the reason?]

[Thats unexpected, do you want to hear it? I thought you weren't interested though.....]

[If your decisions were thanks to me training you guys, then when you guys do something careless wouldn't it also reflect back on me? If its just that much, it's not something I shouldn't know.....]

Saying so, Hajime glanced at Shia for an instant. Cam guessed what his intent was, his eyes loosened up and joyfully, [I see], with a nod, he begins to speak about the reason.

[As said a little while ago, the Usagininzoku have caught the Emperor's interest. And its a very strong interest. The empire is a country where people who believes the principle that abilities reign supreme gather, the emperor isn't free of that saying either. And, their senses of values of weak people are natural according to their principles being ingrained into their characters]

[In other words, you want to say that the Emperor will begin hunting the Usagininzoku for you? Rather than killing you guys, but in order to make you guys his?]

[Affirmative. While I was still being interrogated, the Emperor himself came, "I'll keep you" he said. Of course, I spat at him on immediately....]

Towards Cam spitting on the Emperor's face and then verbally abusing him, the Hauria said, [As expected of the Chief!] while getting fired up, Kouki's group said, [You did that to that Emperor!?] while exposing their surprise.

No one could blame them though. In history, Cam was likely the first person of all races to have spat saliva on the Emperors face. Even Hajime as well, unintentionally raised a voice of admiration, [Ho~o].

[However, it seems to have had an opposite effect. Capturing all of the Usagininzoku and then training them seemed to be interesting, while laughing loudly with an extremely greedy face. When he declared it, his face was quite serious. Once again he'll advance onto the Sea of Trees,

more Usagininzoku will be attacked this time. Also, Fair Bergen hasn't finished rebuilding yet, they won't be able to endure another attack. Therefore, it'll be likely that the Empire will demand all Usagininzokus to be handed over for them to cease their attack....]

[I get it now. If this is handled passively, they'll literally rob you of all your family.....]

[Affirmative. If its so that only the Hauria survive, it's not that difficult to do. However, because of us, all the the other Usagininzoku will be deprived of their futures....it's too much]

It seems that it was a bigger problem than initially thought, Cam's group was cornered situationally.

It was as Cam had said, Just the Hauria surviving wouldn't be too difficult if they devoted themselves to escaping and guerrilla warfare while making use of the Sea of Trees, But all the other Usagininzoku will be seeing hell. If they cannot answer the Emperors wish of "Strong Usagininzokus", women, and children will probably be killed rather than being turned into a pet slave.

[But, you can't really believe that an army of a little over 100 will be enough to stand against the Empire right?]

[Of course. A head-on collision while shouting courageously would be out of the question. We are Usagininzokus, we won't lose to any other race in terms of stealth operations]

Cam said while smiling from ear to ear. Hajime also guessed his intentions.

[In other words, Assassination?]

[Affirmative. if they bear their fangs at us, the first moment that they've relaxed, their necks will fly from a blade in the darkness....In practice, fear and sense of crisis will be planted into those fellows. Always not knowing where attacks are coming from, the Usagininzoku will show their power that only their race can do. We are neither weak nor lower ranked, they'll realise that we're a threat that requires absolute resolution

of death to attack]

[The Emperors entire clan, don't you think that there have already been measures placed against assassination?]

[Of course they probably do. However, we're not aiming for the Emperor's clan, it's the humans around their environment. As expected, none of the surrounding humans would have severe defenses. Yesterday, today, the humans who have been intimate, one person, and then another person will disappear. What we can do at the moment is this, I think it'll be pretty effective. Then finally, it'll be perfect if they create a policy of noninterference for us]

It was an indescribably unsophisticated plan. However, rather than saying that they'll assassinate the Emperors clan, they thought of a very realistic idea.

however, thats it, because there's not enough time to make the Empire feel any kind of threat, It's more likely that it'll cause a full-scale retaliation, will the Empire decide to completely annihilate the Usagininzoku, or will they feel threatened and decide to negotiate at a table, it's obvious which decision would be made. They're taking part in a very bad gamble.

However it still needs to be done, the Usagininzoku will have a dark future either way. Everyone has an expression which shows that they've already prepared themselves.

[....Father.....you all....]

Shia's shoulders dejectedly drop. Turning the empire soldiers into enemies, the Usagininzokus which just broke out of the dungeon in the Imperial castle which would in other words be called a prison, If the Emperor doesn't overlook his own interests for his duty to the public, she could also guess what would happen.

The road left for the Usagininzokus, would they be able to dessert all the other families in order for the Hauria to survive, would all members be happy about becoming toys of the Empire, will they risk their lives and fight, there's only one choice.

[Shia, Don't make such a face. We won't run away like before while being looked down on, we'll eventually overrun them, submitting to them reluctantly would be an ungraceful thing to do.....Now, we'll fight like this, to be able to have this will, we're extremely glad]

[But!]

[Shia, to win the right to live, we'll fight. However, our purpose is not to live. Our purpose is to live with honor as the Hauria. Against any kind of power, if we retreat now, in the end we'll be the same losers that we were in the past. Only that cannot be permitted]

[Father.....]

[Look forwards, Shia. Don't look back at us anymore. You should have already decided. When going with boss outside, in order to advance ahead. With that determination, advance forwards]

Cam, not as the chief and not as the leader of the battle group, but as a father, pushed his daughters back. They cannot allow them to stop any further, the others also wished for them to continue advancing forwards.

After being looked with gentle eyes Shia's expression turns upside down which seemed like she was going to cry, Cam changes his glance to Hajime and nods. he was gesturing for him to take care of his daughter.

Instead of Hajime, Kouki had a silent expressionless face, Indeed, [I'll do something about it!] he said as he got up despite the atmosphere, Shizuku hit the back of his head with her black katana. It appears that stress has built up, her way of stopping him became extreme unlike her usual self.

When Hajime didn't show any reactions, Shia looked back at Hajime. However, before Shia opened her mouth, Cam called out in a strong tone for her to stop as he guessed her intentions.

[Shia!]

It was shocking! so much that Shia's body was shaking.

Cam and them had no intentions of asking for Hajime's help in the first place. The situation was their own consequence for falling for the

Emperors trap. Here, relying on Hajime's powers and entrusting him with the solution would mean that nothing has changed. As Cam said, this is a fight to carry on the Usagininzokus pride which is on the line.

And, Shia also understood that. She could also only run away before so she understands, Now, there is the pride of being Hajime and Yue's companion. But, she feels sad that her family has to make a gamble with such bad stakes.

In the end, Shia kept quiet without being able to say anything.

Hajime, glanced at Yue for an instant and scratched his head then sighed. And, as you would expect, Yue's eyes softened and noded as she understood what he wanted to convey. Hajime smiled a little and calls out to Shia who was looking down.

[Shia]

[Hajime-san....]

Shia's eyes showed expectations slightly.

[This time there's no way I can fight]

[I....I see. That's right]

But, the words followed by Hajime caused her to look down again. In the back Kouki is shouting something, disregarding that the electrical current from the black katana caused him to faint when hit from the side, Hajime grabbed Shia's cheeks which were sunk due to jumping to a hasty conclusion.

[Oi, you, don't jump to a hasty conclusion. Though I won't fight, I didn't say I wouldn't help did I?]

[Fe?]

To Hajime's words, a silly reply was given while her cheeks were being stretched. Kam's group also looked at one another with a bemused expression trying to interpret the meaning of Hajime's words.

[This matter, the Hauria family must show their strength. You should let the other party know that the Hauria tribe is not an easy opponent.

The Demi-human discrimination is common sense in this world, if I fight to protect them, the same situation would begin again when I'm gone. Above all, there is Cam and their wills. Thats why, I will not take one step in this battle]

There Hajime patted Shia's cheeks and turned his gaze to Cam.

[However, our energetic companion is making this kind of face, if you thought I'll obediently stay out of this matter, your greatly mistaken?]

[H, however, boss....then, just what....]

To Cam who displayed a deep perplexity, Hajime with a fearless grin declared.

[Cam, and the Hauria tribe. All of this guys odd strategies are hereby rejected. You all directly point your blades at the Emperor's neck. Grab his hair and drag him down, his relatives, his friends, pin down all of his subordinates in front of him. Suppress the Imperial castle, if help does not come, the Empire would be finished by the end of night! engrave it into their bones that the Hauria tribe can finish them anytime they want! Anywhere in this world, there is no safe place, if you antagonize the Hauria tribe, the neck cutting parade begins, force them to write it into their Empire's history!]

Silence fills the area. Everyone became drunk of stiffness from Hajime's spirit. ~Gokuri~ The sound of saliva being swallowed could be heard clearly.

Hajime while glaring at the surroundings, shouted out in an angry voice which could be mistaken as thunder which makes everyone breathless.

[What's your answer! You "Beep's"!]

[[[[[[[[[~!? S, Sir, Yes, Sir!!]]]]]]]]]

[I can't hear you! You maggots plan to go to war like that! In the end are you guys just a group of "Beep's"!?]

[[[[[[[[[[Sir, No, Sir]]]]]]]]]]*There's one extra bracket now to emphasize their voices lol*

[If you're not, then prove it! Rather than going after the small fry, go for the King!!]

[[[[[[[[[Gung Ho! Gung Ho! Gung Ho!]]]]]]]]]*google the phrase if you dont understand*

[With the blade of revenge and the guts that you've sharpened, cut down anyone who obstructs you!]

[[[[[[[[[Behead! Behead! Behead!]]]]]]]]]

[I'll thoroughly prepare you, the lead role belongs to you guys! I won't permit halfheartedness! Do you understand!]

[[[[[[[[[Aye, Aye, Sir!!!]]]]]]]]]

[Very well! Get fired up! The new Hauria tribe, with 122 people.....]

[[[[[[[[[.....]]]]]]]]]

[You will bring down the Imperial castle!]

[[[[[[[[[YAHAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!]]]]]]]]]

What do you plan on preparing, isn't it impossible to bring down the Imperial castle, such thoughts and doubts flew away from the heads of the Hauria who were completely excited.

The person that calls himself boss is saying that he'll give them the key that opens the door to them. Then, if they don't wait and go on cutting their obstacles that lie ahead, it'll be the shame of the new Hauria tribe. They won't be able to show their face in public and even to Hajime who trained them. Therefore, the Hauria's heart and minds become one, they were burning up with fighting spirit to bring down the Imperial castle.

In the rock zone away from the Imperial capital, the shouts of fighting spirit and murderous intent resounds.

[U~u, Shizu, Shizu, those people are scary~]

[You'll be alright, Suzu. I'm scared too.....I mean, in the first place Nagumo-kuns idea is already scary in itself]

[Nagumo-kun, that guy.....Hehe, who would have thought that he'd

take on the role of HarOman-sensei, he's not too bad]

[Ryutaro!? Why, do I sense a little intimacy!? No matter how you look at it, its an abnormal atmosphere!?]

Shizuku and them could only stare with a dumbfounded expression at the Hauria who were wrapped in a strange heat. A smile seems to have appeared on one person who was in awe and increased his respect towards Hajime.

[U~mu, this is awesome~. For the Usagininzoku to change this much. As expected of master. To make crushing the Empire the goal immediately. I can't get enough of this~. I want to be abused with such spirit]

[.....Shut up, perverted dragon]

[~!? haha]

[Un, Teio-san read the mode a little? Rather than that, look at Shia's expression, Yue. She melted]

[.....N, cute. So that Shia doesn't cry.....it's obvious I'm happy]

[That's right~. It is good, I also want that kind of thing said to me~]

Yue, did she know this was going to happen from the beginning, the darkness in Shia's eyes were wiped out and it gradually softened, though Kaori feels relieved when she sees so, she was also envious of Shia.

Afterwards, Hajime gave out the details of bringing down the Imperial castle, it was then decided that they would rest in preparation until that time.

Shia, for a while did not want to part from Hajime's side. Her usual energetic self was rather silent, However, she wasn't depressed, she snuggled up while blushing and held onto the hem of Hajime's clothes quietly.

Her Usamimi's occasionally when touching Hajime backed off and touch again. As it is, it's nothing but showing feelings of wanting to be by Hajime's side.

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Dawn at night, shortly before the eastern sky begins to shine, there were two shadows sitting on the rock. It's Hajime and Yue who woke up early. By the way, only Hajime is sitting on the rock, Yue is cradled on Hajime's lap.

Everyone aside from the lookout post is asleep, the place they're in is also a blind spot, the two people were enjoying their first quiet time together in a long time. And, at that time, Yue who had rested her head on Hajime's shoulder looks up slowly at him, without a sign she kissed Hajime's neck. A cute smooch sounded out, the silence of the morning was slightly shaken.

[……What's wrong, suddenly?]

[N……somehow I just recalled something from last night]

The thing that happened last night that Yue was talking about, was about the talk of bringing down the Imperial castle. However, why that, the connection with the kiss couldn't be understood, while returning a gentle look to Yue's gentle gaze, Hajime looked puzzled.

[……Rather than the labyrinth, you gave priority to Shia who was "Important". I'm happy that you're treasuring Shia. I'm happy that the people who are "Important" for Hajime are increasing. So full of happiness that……I suddenly wanted to kiss]

When Yue said so, this time she kisses Hajime's cheek.

[…..Will Shia become "Special" too?]

[…..That's, Naa. This worlds number one, although number two would be a tough fight……the "Special" one is only Yue after all]

[…..Mu~u, it would be fine if it's Shia……but, it's troubling that I'm happy]

Yue's expression was a complicated mix of happy feelings and troubled feelings.

Inside of Yue, it was her first friend that she made after getting out of
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the Abyss, it was her companion, and, Shia's existence was that of a younger sister to her which seemed to also be an exception. Thats why, she wouldn't allow the "special" seat to belong to any of the other women. Therefore, though she's happy from the words of the single-minded Hajime, she becomes troubled by his obstinate outline.

To Yue's appearance, Hajime gets offended a little. To be troubled for not allowing any other special women, somehow or another it offended him. So, for the time being, in order to not think about this situation anymore he decided to attack Yue's lips with no questions asked.

[N~.....N~, Ah mu~u....Haji~.....N~]

The eastern skies finally start brightening more and more, it begins to create a shadow behind the two people. The perfectly overlapped shadow occasionally separate but quickly overlapped again, because of that, vivid sounds resounded each time.

Yue's eyes moistened up in a fever, her cheeks were pink, and her lips shined glossily. Exactly as Hajime had intended. As it was, the movements of the two people as if natural, continued....they began to hear the voice of another person from the other side of the rock shade where Hajime had tried to do it.

[O~i, Nagumo. Are you there?]

Apparently it was Kouki, he came to look for Hajime who was not in his bed. Because his positivity has risen as well, everyone will likely wake up soon.

[Chi, it was just getting good, that bastard. Although I can stomach that he wants to learn some Age of Gods magic in the case of more like Nointo shows up.....In various ways, this has become troublesome]

While cursing, there was no helping it, Hajime tried to stand up while holding Yue, but it didn't happen.

Because,

[Hajime, I won't let you escape. N]

[Hey, wa~]

It was because Yue pushed down Hajime. While riding Hajime's waist then rising halfway up and positioning herself down to his waist again, Yue attacked Hajime this time.

[Kouki, was Nagumo-kun there?]

[Ahh, His presence can be felt somewhere around here!?]

Shizu and Suzu appeared behind Kouki, Ryutaro also showed up. Kouki took a detour around a rock while answering Shizuku, but he instinctively stiffens up when he witnessed the spectacle. While looking at the suspicious Kouki who stopped at the other side of the rock, Shizuku and them also peaked over the rock.....~Bishi~! they stiffened up.

In addition, from behind Shia, Kaori, and Teio are coming over. And, while dubiously seeing the stiff group, detoured around the rock.....

[Hey~~~! Just what are you two doing so early in the morning!]

[.....Mu, Shia coming in too?]

[Eh? Is that alright? Then....]

[There's no way that'll be alright! Hurry up and separate! Attacking each other in the morning, how envi.....I mean, unreasonable!]

[Mu~u, am I no good? Just beating me a little would be fine though.....]

While feeling the tiredness in the state of chaos manifested in the morning, this time around, Hajime lifts up Yue in one hand, and warded off Shia who was applying physical reinforcement onto her body to take up the previous offer, [Uu~, Uu~] Kaori groans out, Just like the pervert wanted, a strike hit her cheek [Ahan~] while controlling the condition he increased its force.

In a place a bit away, Kouki's group who had stiffened up began to come to their senses. Suzu, [They're adults, They're adults~] although her face was still stiff her face became heated and dyed in red, Shizuku was carrying her by the side. However, that Shizuku's ear's were completely red.

The eastern sun that breaks out in the sky, though its also the signal which leads the Hauria to a battle for a new life.....it was a very stupid beginning for the start.

Chapter 116 : Imperial Castle - Beginning

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

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The Imperial castle which symbolizes the Hoelscher empire, surrounded by a deep waterway that is about 20-meters in depth, also surrounded by strong castle walls where magic-like defenses were active. Guards are always stationed on the castle walls, even an aquatic demon would be shot in the waterways, as an entrance, there is only one front gate with a huge drawbridge.

The people who are able to come to the Imperial castle is also limited, only people who have permits imbued with magic are allowed to enter. In front of the drawbridge, there's a huge post that resembles the triumphal arches in France, If you don't clear the examination to enter the castle here, you wouldn't be allowed to cross the drawbridge at all. If you try the impolite way and invade the castle, you'd be thrown into the waterways where demons thrive.

The inspection at the post is also quite merciless. For example, even if you were a trader of supplies going in and out with an entrance permit through regular procedures, every product would be inspected one by one. Therefore, it's also impossible to try to invade by hiding in the luggage.

In other words, what I want to say is that, trying to trespass into the Imperial castle is extremely, extremely, difficult.

Towards that kind of fact, Kouki thought about it while waiting in line at the castle inspection ahead of the triumphal arch, he looked back and glanced over his shoulder. There, his usual party members and his childhood friends Shizuku, Ryutaro, Suzu, and also Hajime's group were there.

Kouki's group came back to the Imperial capital in order to enter the Imperial castle in a dignified manner.

Kouki's thoughts. They were a diversion to allow Cam and them to escape the prison without additional commotions, and. Obviously, because Hajime had magic that allowed transfer through space he went with them on the rescue, although escaping wouldn't be that difficult, if the security is already this severe just to enter, the guards inside of the Imperial capital is better left unsaid.

Lets say that you knew of the dungeons location through questioning beforehand, if the exact location is not understood, space magic transfer to a pinpoint location couldn't be used. Thats why, after invading, its necessary to search on foot. Still, there's no helping it that you would tip your hat to the person who accomplished such things without being caught. Kouki instinctively felt the "difference" between them again, [Ha~a], and leaked out a sigh.

By the way, an outside military unit was in charge of the distraction that kouki's group caused, because it's impossible for the military units in the Imperial castle to come out explicitly, it was hardly useful at all. Somewhat like, [What happened?], it was only on a slightly higher level than unrest.

[Next~.....you're an unfamiliar face. .....Let me see your permit]

The guard soldiers looked at Kouki's group with a suspicious expression.

The amount of people who can enter the Imperial castle is limited, so the guards know most of the faces. And, normally on their first visits people wear their best clothes, however they were extremely well equipped for a group that's been invited to the Imperial castle for the first time. Thats why, like Kouki's group, people dressed up like adventurers are rare. They were suspicious so they began to become more cautious.

[No, we don't have any permits, in its place, we have this.....]

[Ha? A status plate? Just what.....]

Naturally, Hajime and them did not have a permit to enter the Imperial castle. But, Kouki's position is useful here. After all, he is the "Hero". The trump card of the human race whom God sent into the game with the Majinzoku race and was viewed publicly as "God's Apostle". For example, even if that wasn't the actual reality of the situation.

Although the guard gave them dangerous looks when they said they didn't have permits, his eyes twinkled when he read the characters "Hero" displayed on the status plate, he alternately looks back and forth between the status plate and kouki's face. From the guards reaction, the surrounding colleagues were beginning to pay attention.

[Ehtto……Hero……sama, right? God's apostle that was summoned in the Kingdom?]

[Ah, yes, that's right. I'm the hero. Though I came with princess Ririana who is here……due to a few circumstances]

[Ha, Ha~a…..]

From the guard's mutter, his colleagues learned of Kouki's identity and began to become increasingly noisy. Their expressions were natural, [Why, did you come separately from princess Ririana?] [Why, didn't you communicate this beforehand?], their questions were full of doubt.

However, the other party is God's apostle whom they believe in, surely they were in charge of a secret mission that was given to them, for the time being, they passed the word to the higher-ups.

As expected, even for the hero, because they didn't have the courage to let a person who wasn't scheduled to enter the castle with their own discretion, several guards disappeared while dashing into the Imperial castle as they were frightened to rudely keep them waiting.

Hajime and them are placed in the waiting room of the post.

After waiting 15 minutes.

Disregarding "Yue who was on Hajime's Knee" which became a scene so natural that nobody bothers to tsukkomi anymore, Shia was sitting on the other Knee, Kaori and Teio formed a partnership at the last second and

held on to his hands respectively, then they began to hear the ~Dota Dota~ footsteps coming from the drawbridge.

[I heard that the Hero's group had come here....Is it you guys?]

[Ah, yes, that's right. That's us]

While saying so and showing his appearance, it was an especially large empire soldier, it's possible to tell that he's of a higher rank from the attitudes of the surrounding soldiers. He, while impudently staring at Kouki, and checking Kouki's status plate, he began to glance at the other members in investigation.

In the process, when Shia who was in the blind spot was seen, his eyes opened widely in surprise. And he began grinning an unpleasant smile of interest. Towards the unpleasant glance, Shia's body shakes slightly.

[I've confirmed it. I am the commander of the third regiment, Grid Half. Word of the hero's group has already entered princess Ririana's ears as well, she's waiting in her room. I'll have my subordinate guide you. .....By the way, hero, the Usagininzoku? She doesn't have a slave collar on her right?]

[Eh? No, she's.....]

The man who introduced himself as Grid Half asked about Shia as he returned the status plate.

However, Kouki was troubled on how to answer. She wasn't a slave, the choker that Shia wore looked nothing like a slave's collar, he hesitated if he should declare that she was Hajime's lover or not. [Even if you ask me such things.....] he honestly replied.

Did Kouki's answer allow him to judge to not expect anything which cause him to become quiet, Grid glanced over towards Shia. And, they managed to guess the reason why he is so intensely paying attention to Shia.

[Yo~o, Usagi lass. I've got a few questions for you. .....What happened to my subordinates?]

[Subordinates? .....Um....what do you.....]

From Grid's sudden question.

For an instant, although Shia had no idea what he was talking about, she seemed to have guessed and her eyes were opened wide in astonishment.

The empire soldiers who had a direct relation to Shia were limited. It was naturally, the group of people that cornered the Hauria tribe when leaving the Sea of Trees. Many family members were killed, abducted, placed into slavery, and it was the enemies that drove Shia to go to the [Raisen Great Canyon].

[It's odd huh? Even though she's returned, none of my subordinates came back, why are you still alive and in such a place? A~a?]

[Ua~.....]

Grid gradually approached to corner Shia.

Right, he was the commander of the forces that attacked Shia's group that came out of the Sea of Tree's before. Because Grid who was the regiment commander didn't personally come to capture Shia, she had no memories of ever seeing Grid before, however Grid firmly recalled that there was a rare Usagininzoku with blue-white hair.

In Shia's mind, the expressions of the empire soldiers had when attacking to tease them and the sense of hopelessness of losing a family member at that time, flashed back. While unconsciously raising out a groan and her expression stiffening up, one step, trying to back away.....she felt a warm touch on her cheeks and became startled.

If you look, just as usual, Hajime picked up shia's cheeks. And, immediately after that, she felt warmth in her hand. That was Yue.

Her eyes looking up showed no worries, if anything it was amazement, a slight color of scolding appeared though. It seemed to imply, [Don't be overwhelmed by small fries of this level, Greenhorn].

Shia who was looking at Yue and Hajime, with a wry smile said, [I'm

alright now]. No matter how you looked at it, the events which took placed was a trauma, the present Shia was unmistakably a strong person who had enough power and spirit to crush the monsters in the great labyrinths to pieces. There's no reason for her to be overwhelmed by the pressure that one officer was releasing.

Shia with an attractive smile after decisively straightening her spine towards the approaching Grid. And declared to Grid who instinctively stopped advancing.

[I don't know a thing about your subordinates. They were likely people who were slow in the head, maybe they were eaten by some kind of demon that appeared somewhere? Also, there's no reason for me to answer your questions at all]

[.....You sure are getting full of yourself. A~a? Did you think you were safe because you're with the Hero's group? If you're not a slave, then you probably solded away that body of yours? A prostitute's life, I won't be taking such tongue from you]

Although Grid said those dangerous words while dangerously steeling up his eyes, Shia had already removed eye contact with Grid, her eyes told that she didn't care. Rather, having called Shia a prostitute, the other women looked at Grid with anger.

While looking at Shia's attitude, his veins appeared and his expression twisted with anger, when he noticed the looks, to deceive them he smiled and declared to Kouki.

[I'm terribly sorry, Hero-dono. This Usagininzoku seems to know something something about my subordinates that have been missing since 2 months ago, Will you listen to my request? If you need an Usagininzoku woman, I can prepare another for you, this time around.....]

[Oi, underling]

However, a voice interrupted before Grid finished talking. At the same time that Grid glanced towards the voice, his expression cramped up because of anger, there the annoyed looking Hajime was seen.

[What……]

[Don't open your mouth, underling. Your role is already over. Making us stay forever over foolish things. Quit wasting time and guide us quickly]

[Why you little……]

[Can you not understand the meaning of being silent? To us, we don't even have a miniscule amount of time to spend on you. Know your place]

To Hajime's words, Grid's face is dyed completely red because of the hooligan who picked a fight since they didn't want anything to do with him. His eyes became bloodshot in anger. Even then, self-control was something a regiment commander was required to have, with just one wrong line to "God's Apostles" he would definitely be cut from his position, he became silent and the subordinate in the back began to guide them.

Disregarding Grid who was staring at Hajime with bloodshot eyes, Hajime's group left the room as if nothing happened.

Although Kouki's group had slightly cramped cheeks because of Hajime's objection, the females looked refreshed. As for Hajime, there was no intent on being sarcastic……If he knew of that, blood might have gushed out from Grid's blood vessels.

However, it seemed that a "crotch smash" was about to happen if he still didn't understand because he had called Shia a prostitute……Grid should be happy for himself to have such self discipline.

Hajime's group didn't worry about the piercing gaze that came from behind them, the huge suspension bridge was extended and they followed the pale expressioned guide.

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[And?]

That was the first word that Ririana said to Hajime's group as they were guided into the room in the Imperial castle. Although she wore a smile on her face, her eyes were cold and didn't smile at all. It seemed to express,
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[Explain the circumstances right away damn it!].

Most likely she was busy to death from the Empires conferences. Inside of her, no matter how she looked at it Hajime's group appearing was troublesome, unexpectedly, there was no helping that she said such things. In a sense, it was a sign of familiarity……though it might not be as well.

[Besides the farce at the Imperial capital, why on earth is everybody here? I demand a clear explanation. Yes, I strongly, strongly, demand for one. I won't forgive you if you trick me! Especially, Nagumo-san! It was definitely you who pulled the strings from behind the scenes! Don't treat others as if they were someone elses problems and stop feeling Shia-san's fluffy usamimi's! Yue-san's also caressing and touching Shia-san's cheeks as well!]

Ririana's lost it! She glares at Hajime with enough power that it seems to create sounds.

It's exactly as she said, Ririana thought it was Hajime's idea in the Imperial capital, and it was also his idea to come to the Imperial castle. Putting it simply, Hajime has been recognized as the leader of the group, the schemes which would normally be considered insane could only be formed from Hajime's mind.

And, Hajime who was being blamed, was unusually gently feeling Shia's usamimi's while she sat on his knee. On the other knee, Yue had both hands from the front and was caressing and touching Shia's cheeks.

[Your voice is too loud, princess. What's the problem? Today, Shia's kinda unstable]

[Unstable…..you say? is she not feeling well somewhere?]

At once Ririana became worried immediately, shes a good person as well.

Shia that receives the glance, though biting her lip to endure something, her expression began to loosen from her ears being felt and her cheeks being caressed, when she raised her face she showed a smile

and said, [I'm fine].

The reason which caused Shia's emotions to become unstable was obviously because of Grid.

However, it was not unstability from fear in particular. It was the opposite. She was restraining her overflowing murderous intent. No matter how you say it, Grid's group was the hateful party that took away a lot of Shia's family. As long as she gets over her trauma, only strong murderous intent flows afterwards.

However, after thinking about their purpose for coming here, she wasn't able to immediately kill him. That's why, she desperately endured it. And, Hajime and Yue who understood this, tried to sooth Shia by indulging her.

For people who don't know of the circumstances, when summed up, the relation of Grid and Shia were spoken, everyones expression became sorrowful, afterwards, Kouki's group naturally resented them for that, and Ririana looked down with a dark expression. For Ririana, the enslavement of Demi-humans were commonsense in the world and allowed, she didn't think it was far too unreasonable although she did feel resentment.

She who judged herself decided that she wasn't qualified to say anything, towards the members that were making angry faces, [It's fine~, really], Shia said with a dazzling smile, they urged the continuation of the story from Hajime.

[And, why did you guys come here? What about your business at the forest? And also, what was up with the masked disturbance last night? It should almost be time for his Majesty, Gaharudo, to call us for a meeting. I want to get our stories straight ahead of time before we meet, so I'd like you to tell me the bare minimum if you would]

[Ma~a, don't be so restless, princess. When night comes, you'll understand everything. We.....want to hurry and wrap things up after all, we stopped for a slight detour.....that should be all that you need to know for now]

[S, such unreasonableness.....I'll know when its night you say, it can't be, do you plan to create another disturbance with masks again? I understand

now! Nagumo-san was the one that made Shizuku and them dress in those embarrassing getups!]

[Don't get so excited. You'll grow bald, princess]

[I won't grow bald! Just what are you saying to a lady!]

[……Stress baldness]

[Yue-san!?]

She seemed to realise that Hajime didn't plan on speaking any further, moreover, Ririana who received such impolite treatment, [Even though I'm a princess…..], while being depressed. Right next to her, Shizuku was, [embarrassing getups…..], muttering quietly while being reminded of her dark history.

Afterwards, in the place where Ririana became depressed she explained the situation, apparently his Majesty, Gaharudo, was told of the story about the end of the church and gods who went mad.

However, as expected of their abilities reign supreme principles, the top of the country is in utilitarianism*basically everyone in the country believes in the system*. Though there seems to have been moderate impact, while fearlessly laughing he declared that the way they did things wouldn't particularly change anyways. In other words, if it's an enemy, they'll be cut down, if you want something, then forcefully take it, the weak must obey the strong! is what he said.

Further more Gaharudo wondered how Ririana traveled to the Empire, he was anxious.

In other words, though he understood the story of the Kingdom being attacked, the amount of time that it took Ririana to reach the empire was far too quick. Though he was saved because the Empire also felt that an immediate conference of cooperation with the Kingdom should be held, it was impossible to arrive at the Empire after only 1 week of the attack.

At the same time, how did the Kingdom manage to drive away the Majinzoku's army, he was considerably interested in their methods.

About the “Pillar of Light” that gave the demonic army forces a fatal blow, rather than talks about the God’s, excuses of “Heaven’s Judgement” wouldn’t cut it for Gaharudo. When it comes to that, naturally, he came to the assumption that someone had a weapon capable of destroying an entire army in one blow. To that truth, as the Emperor of the Hoelscher Empire, and as a person, he wasn’t able to overlook it.

If he investigates it, he’ll know immediately, Ririana who got permision from Hajime beforehand, especially talked about how troublesome Hajime was.

However, because she thought Hajime was wasn’t at the Empire but traveling around in a faraway place, he had actually entered the heart of the Empire and was meddling in Gaharudo’s greedy ambitions, then, on the other hand, what kind of movements will Hajime be taking from now on, Ririana was extremely anxious.

……Mainly, in the sense that the Empire gets mysteriously wiped out from the maps.

Therefore, in the place where she would previously wait to meet with Gaharudo, although she couldn’t meet with him because of previous events…..Hajime is being evasive and unserious, Ririana was already, [If you’re going to do it~ do it seriously~], while her state of mind was slightly neglectful. Surely, being uneasy about her own misgivings, she would never have guessed in her wildest dreams.

From Ririana, to some extent, heard the rooms door being knocked on and the contents of the conference with the empire was heard. It seems that time’s run out. While following the guide, Hajime and them are heading for the reception room where Gaharudo is waiting.

Chapter 117 : Imperial Castle - Later

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When we entered into the room, it was a fairly plain room with little decoration and there was a table large enough to hold about 30 people. On the upper seat of the table sat a man, the Emperor of the Hoelscher Empire, Gaharudo D. Hoelscher, who had a fearless smile while resting his chin on his hand. There are 2 people behind him, they had a keen air about them in the sense of “We’re capable” as they stood waiting.

And, although we couldn’t see their figures in the room, there was also 2 more people on the other side of the wall, 4 people in the ceiling, and Hajime also felt 2 people soundlessly outside the closed door they came though. It wasn’t only the 2 behind Gaharudo, the other hidden men seemed to have been considerably skilled as well.

[So, are you Hajime Nagumo?]

When Hajime’s group entered, Ririana also introduced them, while completely skipping the greetings to Kouki who was the hero, Gaharudo released pressure while looking at Hajime with a piercing gaze.

It was pressure from the overpowering man who ruled over several hundred thousands of people who were wild and strong and believed in the nature of power. It was no joke. Ririana who was also in a royal family voiced a small groan from the stifling pressure, Kouki’s group backed away instinctively.

However, from such overpowering pressure, these 5 people, Hajime, Yue, Shia, Teio, and Kaori, were calm. In the first place, even Kaori who had little experience survived from the attack of an immortal monster thats been alive since the ancient times at the [Merujine Undersea Ruins].

So although the Emperor had an overpowering pressure, when compared to the monsters in the great labyrinths, it was nothing more than a soft breeze.

Gaharudo's mouth lifts up more and more in interest when he sees that Hajime's group is unphased, then Hajime answered.

[Yes, I'm Hajime Nagumo. Its an honor to have been known by you, your Majesty the Emperor]

[[[[[!?]]]]]

While placing his hand on his chest and lightly bowing, Kouki's group looked at Hajime with astonishment at his words.

Their eyes opened wide and clearly conveyed, [Who are you!]. Especially Ririana who was shaking in unease. While receiving Gaharudo's overpowering pressure and raising a small groan, though her expression hardly changed, it wasn't able to conceal that she was staring at Hajime with an aghast expression.

Hajime also knows of the TPO*Time, Place, Occasion*. However, he was always just ignoring it.

But, because he had business in the Imperial castle this time, he didn't want to be thrown out because he disrespected the Emperor. Since he shouldn't believe in God anymore, the title of "God's Apostle" is probably not effective anymore. The only way to pass is with the title of Hero. Thats why, he judged that he needed to at least use the bare minimum amount of etiquette. Although the changed person was definitely still Hajime.

[Kukuku.....I never even considered this. What happened to your usual arrogant attitude? N? It's quite different from the cries of a certain princess somewhere?]

However, Gaharudo only makes fun of him while laughing.

Hajime glanced over at Ririana. [Princess~, You, just how much did you unnecessarily talk about, A~a?] Ririana who was receiving Hajime's glance, ~Pui~! looked in another direction. When Gaharudo asked what

kind of person Hajime was, she unintentionally yelled and complained a great deal about her treatment.

[.....Ha~a, that's right. hm then, as usual]

[Kuku, then it's fine]

Though they were surprised of Hajime's sudden change, they sat down in order.

Finally after Gaharudo removed his gaze off Hajime, he noticed Yue and them who took up their positions by Hajime and observed them interestingly, his eyes seemed to significantly glance at Shia in particular. Following that, he turned his gaze towards Kouki's group.....he looked at Shizuku who was next to Kouki and a grin appeared on both his lips and eyes.

[Shizuku, it's been a while. Have you finally decided to become my wife?]

[O, oi! Shizuku already declined before!]

Kouki reacted to Gaharudo before Shizuku did. Gaharudo's glances over at Kouki for an instant, then back at Shizuku and started laughing hysterically. Kouki had the "I don't care" attitude but veins were appearing on his forehead.

While sighing at the 2 people, Shizuku had a clarified face and answered.

[I have no intentions to take back my previous words. I'll have to decline your Majesties offer]

[Quite heartless. But, it wouldn't be interesting otherwise. More than the world, allow me to tell you it's good. I await the day when that clarified face is dyed in red from longing for me]

[That day will never come throughout all of eternity. .....Or rather, don't you already have an Empress?]

[What about it? Are you dissatisfied as a concubine? Fumu, there are a variety of problems when you become the legal wife.....]

[I didn't mean it that way! You'd place your hands on other woman other than the Empress.....]

[What are you saying? I'm the Emperor? 10 or 20 concubines are normal]

[Gu~.....that's right. A, anyways, I will not become his Majesties. Please give up]

[Ma~a, since you won't be returned by God anymore, you'll probably be stuck in this world for a while, I suppose I should take my time to convince you. Kuku, prepare yourself, Shizuku]

It appears that Gaharudo really likes Shizuku. As expected of a greedy Emperor, he won't give up even when he's been refused. His sharp eyes were completely locked onto Shizuku. Though Shizuku looks away with an expression that seemed to hate him from the bottom of her heart, she also seemed to not care at all.

Then, at that time, the direction that Shizuku looked in, by chance, aligned with Hajime's sight. From Hajime's glance at that time, [As expected of the worldly-wise man (laughs)] a color of amusement and interest was clearly included.

The angered Shizuku just used her finger to play with the sugar cubes that were prepared for her tea. Although it wasn't as strong as Hajime's, the sugar cube flew with excellent power, it's aim was accurately flying towards Hajime's hateful face.....

However, it wasn't a direct hit, it flew into Hajime's mouth and was caught. ~Mogo Mogo~ Hajime's mouth moved around with an air of flamboyant pride, after the sweetness of the sugar cube was firmly satisfied, he swallowed it. Shizuku's face was mortifying, however Hajime's was clarified.

When Gaharudo saw her in such a state, he turned his sharp glance back at Hajime. It seemed to convey a variety of things.

[Fu~n, this is quite the interesting situation. .....Hajime Nagumo. Though I have a mountain of questions that I want to ask you, first of all,

answer this]

[Ah? what is it.....]

[You, have you already embraced*sex being implied* my Shizuku?]

[[[[Bufu~u--!?]]]]

To Gaharudo who abruptly asked such an unexpected question with an eager expression, several people including Shizuku blew out air.

Even the guards that were waiting behind Gaharudo, [Your Majesty.....the first thing you wanted to ask, was that.....] with a pained expression. They also seemed to be worldly-wise men.

[Wai-, your Majesty! Just what are you suddenly saying....]

[Shizuku, you remain silent for now. I'll hear it from Hajime Nagumo right now]

Naturally, although Shizuku tried to burst Gaharudo's bubble with a tsukkomi, Gaharudo turned his eyes to Hajime, ignoring it. On the other hand, Hajime had an amazed expression.

[What did you think about to reach that conclusion]

[It appears that Shizuku has the heart to forgive you.....Judging from that manner, it's not impossible, so just in case]

[Ha~a, there's no way that would happen]

[.....Fumu, that's not a lie right. Then, what do you think of Shizuku?]

To that question, all the glances in the room turned to Hajime. Eyes conveying various meanings from Yue's group and Kouki's group pierced him.

Hajime let out a sigh about why the first question asked by the Emperor after meeting him was about his relationship with Shizuku, anyways he turned his gaze over to Shizuku. Shizuku's expression was supposed to be extremely amusing. Hajime looked at Shizuku who was inclining her neck.

It appears that Shizuku's ears began to slightly redden.....

For the time being, the answer (real intentions) was given.

[……She's like a mother]

[OK, that fight you're looking for, you've won it. Get off the table, Nagumo-kun]

a young 17-year old girl was being held down, of all the things to say, why was it "She's like a mother", is what Shizuku who was still sitting on her seat and was getting up was conveying with hatred in her glare at Hajime. The delicate atmosphere from a while ago had already disappeared. Suzu and Kouki who were next to Shizuku were panicking and desperately tried to hold her down.

[……I didn't think it would be such a boring answer……ma~a, fine. Shizuku, don't go accidently falling in love now? Because you're mine]

[I've already said this but, I have no intentions of being his Majesties and I've also not fallen for Nagumo-kun! Just stop with the nonsense and get back to the main subject]

[I get it, I get it. Don't get so angry. An excessive denial will only be taken as a positive one?]

[Nuguu~u……]

Shizuku instinctively tried to raise a groan in objection to Gaharudo but decided to sit down loudly. Suzu calmed her with a wry smile, however for some reason Kouki was glaring at Hajime.

[Hajime Nagumo. You as well, don't go placing your hands on Shizuku?]

[Be relieved, I don't have the faintest interest in doing that. Rather, if you're only going to idly chat, I'd like to leave now?]

[Our chit chat was unneeded huh. It's a talk about a new concubine……or Empress that may appear you know? It even involves the Empire's future…..ma~a, what I wanted to talk about certainly wasn't about Shizuku. You should already know right? It's about your abnormality]

Gaharudo bought time by starting with Shizuku to observe Hajime, he

judged it was the proper time and slowly the entire atmosphere changed. It was different from the playful atmosphere, it was now one filled with ambition, it gave off a radiance of a sharp blade.

Gaharudo cut to the chase and asked the biggest reason for meeting with Hajime's group.

[I've heard about it to some degree from princess Ririana. You're someone who's made it to the end of the great labyrinths and obtained the ability to create artifacts……completely repelled the Majinzoku's army, and was able to travel the distance which would normally take 2 months in less than 2 days, such an artifact. Is it true?]

[Ahh]

[And you have no intentions of sharing those artifacts with neither the Kingdom nor Empire?]

[Ahh]

[Fu~n, one person monopolizing that power…….do you think we'd allow such a thing?]

[Whose permission is required? If I'm not allowed, what exactly are you going to do about it?]

Gaharudo steeled his eyes to Hajime's response.

The Emperor's ambitions increased even more, Ririana began gritting her teeth and was worrying nonstop. The bodyguards behind Gaharudo began to release bloodlust before Gaharudo did. In contrast, the presence of the people who were hiding in the room began to diminish even further. It was exactly like a touch-and-go state.

Towards the tensed air Kouki's group had stiff faces and steeled themselves for battle.

However, Hajime's group completely warded off the breeze-like bloodlust with their own heavy bloodlust which could be felt sticking onto their skins, then calmly reached out for the tea cups. At that instant, he glanced at the locations of where the hiding people's hidden presences

were. [Have we been noticed?] they said.

did they notice properly, their presence that could be felt shook slightly.

[Hahaha, stop, stop it. We were completely seen though. This guys a genuine flesh and blood monster. If we fought now, we'd be completely annihilated!]

Gaharudo was laughing hysterically and hid his ambitions. The surrounding people who had dangerous airs also matched it accordingly.

[Why do you look like you're enjoying this so much?]

[Oi, oi, I'm the head of the "Empire" you know? When you meet a strong guy, it'll be a lie to say that your heart doesn't dance around right?]

Kouki's group, although they couldn't understand what was going on, they let out relieved breaths because the atmosphere was less tense, Hajime also tsukkomied the unusually happy Gaharudo. Gaharudo's answer was definitely one of those who believe in the abilities reign supreme policy.

[Even so, those women you've got there are quite outrageous. Oi, where did you find them? For there to be women of this caliber, I want to ask you a request directly.....allow me to have one of them, Hajime Nagumo]

[Don't say such foolish things. You're in over your head.....no, it might be fine if it's Teio]

[~!? Wh, what did you.....say, master casually wants to sell mistress to another man! Haa~ Haa~, being treated so.....I can't get enough of it. Haa~ Haa~]

[There's a slight problem, though she's a great woman appearance-wise]

[Sorry, even the Emperor has his limits. As expected, a girl dripping with pervertedness is too much]

[Th, this guy, to say it right in front of the person being talked about! Kuu~uu, N~, N~, surely, after this I'll be forcefully taken by his Majesty, messing up mistress right before master's eyes....Haa~ Haa~.....N~~.....I

need to change my underwear]

Even Gaharudo and them could only stare dumbfounded at Teio's strangely refreshing expression. Then they turned their gaze to Hajime who traveled with such a perverted woman. Gaharudo changed the mood by clearing his throat.

[As for me, I'm quite more interested in that Usagininzoku there? I've never seen an Usagininzoku with that kind of hair before and she completely disregarded my bloodlust as well. That mental attitude reminds me of the toy's that I caught a while ago, how about that one?]

Towards Gaharudo's word "Toy's", Shia's eye twitched for an instant in reaction. Yue who was next to her, clasped her hand quietly underneath the table.

[Even if you tell me about your toys.....]

[You can't think of anything, you mean? Do you want to go check them out later? Actually, I still have more(. .)animals, although they're a woman and a child, they're quite------]

[I'm not interested]

Gaharudo's words were a bluff. Through Cam, it's been confirmed that all the people caught were already rescued. He's probably trying to ask baiting questions. Compared to that, Hajime's answer was only a line.

However, Gaharudo's attack wasn't over yet.

[Ho~o, those fellows had special short swords and equipment on the 5-star level, even then you're not interested, Synergist(. . .)?]

[None]

[.....I see. By the way, yesterday, there were some people who managed to break out of the prison in the dungeon, the Imperial castle was easily invaded and they escaped, that kind of thing could only be done with a special artifact's(. .)magic, do you know anything about it?]

[I don't know]

[.....Ha~a.....then it's fine. This is the last question I want to know

of.....what do you think of God?]

[I'm not interested]

[Ah~, I get it already. Jeez, you're such an unsocial brat]

Gaharudo was cursing as he scratched his head ~Gari Gari~. However, he still had a somewhat happy expression. He seems to favor the other party who he argued with. From what he soaked in from the exchange, Gaharudo probably guessed Hajime's was connected with the Hauria tribe, he noticed that the prisonbreak was through Hajime's guidance.

And he seemed to understand Hajime's stance on this world's problems from his short answers. At least, it seems like they won't be facing off against Hajime. After all, not being chased out of the Imperial castle is already great evidence.

Then the time came, one of the men waiting in the back quietly whispered into Gaharudo's ear, Gaharudo slowly left his seat.

[Ma~a, I heard the minimum amount that I wanted to hear.....rather, I already understood, so all is well. Ah, that's right. Tonight, we'll be holding princess Ririana's welcome party. By all means, please attend. It'll also serve as my son and the princess's engagement party. Even though the truth is different, if you didn't know of it, the blessings as a "Hero" or "God's Apostle" would be good. I'm begging you here? Hero's only of form?]

Gaharudo ignored Kouki and their dumbfounded looks when they heard the explosive remarks suddenly dropped into their ears, and provocatively stared at Hajime with a fearless smile, he then gallantly left the room.

The door sounded out in a slam, As a result, Kouki and them regained their composure and quickly questioned Ririana.

[Ririi, what's this about an engagement! Just what exactly happened!]

[That's....for example, besides the mad Gods, if the Majinzoku attacks us then there's no choice but to retaliate. The king of our country has died, the successor is still only 10 years old, it's not enough to steer the country, then, it's necessary to strengthen our relationships with an ally]

[That's why Ririi is getting engaged with the prince?]

[Yes. My partner is the crowned prince. There have always been many discussions about engaging us beforehand. He was practically already my fiance, It's just that it'll be finalized at this party. Exactly because we're shaken up by the devils invasion, is what I mean]

[What about the Kingdom? You don't have to consult this with them?]

[There's already been a majority that consented to it before, so there shouldn't be any objections. To begin with, it was that kind of story. Besides, right now the most substantial person in the Kingdom is me. Randell is only in form, because mother isn't a person to step up into the front. Therefore, there are no problems. Right now, quick decisions are necessary]

Ririana said with a resolute expression. Kouki's group had their jaws opened, then they closed it with a sour look on their faces.

[……Does Ririi like that person?]

[It's not about liking or disliking. This is to build a connection between countries. It's just that, the crown prince already has many mistresses, the amount of people would cause you to become offended and hurt your stomach*I think?*. My position aside, we cannot balance out if I'm married to the other princes, there's no helping it……]

[Wh, why, how can you be fine with it! Even though you don't like him, to be marrying that kind of man is strange!]

[If you look at it, that may be what it looks like, because I'm a princess from the royal family. Since birth, this was natural]

[Natural you say……even Ririi is a girl. Don't you want to marry someone that you actually like?]

Kouki couldn't understand and yelled, Ririana could only reply back with a troubled smile.

Ririana was certainly a girl. She became especially close friends with the women that came from another world, If it's about Koari and

Shizuku's girls talk then, naturally she yearns for a romantic love.

To Ririana who was wryly smiling, Shizuku stopped Kouki who's arguing became increasingly wild. Inside where the delicate atmosphere flowed, Hajime slowly left his seat. And tried to leave the room as if nothing happened. To that, Kouki let out his feelings that had nowhere else to go.

[Oi! Nagumo! Do you think nothing of this!]

[Ha~a? What do you think I can do about the princess's engagement? More so, this is a form of politics taking shape as a marriage? Rather, this isn't something an amateur can even intervene in]

[Gu~, bu, but....]

[More importantly, there are things that we have to do. If you do something rash and end up obstructing us, I'll knock you down flat alright?]

After Hajime said that, Yue and them also quickly left. While calming down the riled up Kouki, depending on the results of what'll happen in the near future, the engagement talk may be scrapped, Shizuku looked up towards the ceiling with some tiredness.

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Hajime and them who exited, after Shizuku's group talked with each other for 2 or 3 stories, they returned to their rooms arranged for them by the attendant maids because Ririana had to prepare for the party at night. For such an occasion, it's mainly dresses.

[Ma~a, it's wonderful, Ririana-sama!]

[Really.....you look exactly like a flower fairy]

[Surely, his royal highness would be pleased a well!]

One of the dress candidates was chosen in the end after trying on dozens of others, to Ririana who turned around in front of the full-length mirror, the entranced blushing maids surrounding her let out compliments. Although shew as only 14-years-old she had an exquisite
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charm as a woman, combined with the light pink dress only amplified it's effects to the maximum. Just like one of the maids had said, she had the loveliness of a flower spirit.

[That's, right. Shall we go with this. Next is the accessories.....]

Ririana herself seemed to consent with a nod.

No matter how much this was a political marriage, the crown prince was an extreme ladies man who resembled his father, Bias D. Hoelscher, when they met several times in the past, he looked at Ririana with indecent eyes when she still hadn't even reached the age of 10, that scums actual ability wasn't half-baked, he called a lower class knight for "practice" while at the Kingdom to show off his strength as he teased the knight, however the fact that he will become her husband won't change.

As so, Ririana couldn't bring shame to her partner, since it's their engagement party, Ririana intended to dress up to her maximum potential. Shaking away the word "liked person" that Kouki said from her head.

Ririana was also a woman. She was also popular with many other talented women of the Hairihi Kingdom, so she had yearnings to be a normal girl as well. When she's in a pinch, the prince who she dreamed of would appear, then they'd be attracted to each other from their chanced meeting, she's even dreamt up stories of overcoming multiple obstacles in their reach for love together.

But, it's an impossible future. Because Ririana was intelligent, she accepted that she would be called for on a mission since she was young. That's why, even if she feels repulsed by the other partner from the bottom of her heart, her feelings of wanting to be an excellent wife is true, she was determined to magnificently serve the crowned prince after the party.

Then, at that time, suddenly, the outside of her room became noisy. Ririana's door was flung open without knocking, and a large man without hesitation, rudely entered the room. Though he stopped as the knights of the Imperial guards*the Kingdoms* ran up to Ririana's side, the man

didn't particularly care.

[Ho~o, is that the dress for tonight……it's about average I guess]

[…..Bias-sama. Suddenly breaking into a lady's room isn't an admirable act]

[A~a? I'm going to be your husband? why are you talking back at me?]

[…….]

The person warning Ririana with a gloomy expression is, Bias D. Hoelscher, whom she is to be engaged to. The same as several years ago, he carried a rude tyrannical atmosphere, he continued to look at Ririana from top to bottom indecently. A chill ran through Ririana's spine.

[Oi, everyone leave at once]

Bias with a grin on his lips, suddenly ordered all the maids and knights of the Imperial guard to leave. He ordered again threatenly for those that were puzzled, the maids left the room panickingly. However, the Imperial guards, naturally hesitated. Ririana notices that Bias's eyes were becoming dangerous, unsure of what to do she ordered the guards to stand down.

[Fu~n, when disciplining your dogs, make sure to do it firmly]

[……They are not dogs. They're my important vassals]

[……Rebellious as ever I see? Kuku, still the same brat that hasn't even reached 10 years old, it was worthwhile being glared at with that hateful gaze of yours. At that time, I already decided that you were going to be mine someday]

When he said that, Bias had a disgusting smile on his face while watching Ririana who had stiffened up from the bottom of her heart, suddenly her breasts were grabbed at.

[~!? No~! Ouch!]

[Even still, you've grown up. It's still not enough though, however that in itself is appetizing]

[St, stop]

Towards the violent action, Ririana's expression distorted into pain. When Bias saw the expression, his laughter became much more excited, he then pushed down Ririana onto the ground. Although Ririana was screaming, the Imperial guards outside didn't seem to notice.

[You can cry as much as you want? Because this room has a special mechanism in place, sound cannot reach the outside. Ma~a, even if those dogs entered, they can't do anything against me because I'm the crowned prince. After all, do you want those fellows to see your virginity being taken away? Ku, Hahahaha~]

[Why……this kind of…….]

Ririana became pale when she thought of the things that will be done in the future, she courageously glared at Bias.

[It's those eyes. Those rebellious eyes, painfully, despairing, I want to turn those into eyes of pleasure. Above all else, I love teasing defiant people into submission. People who are struggling desperately, there's no higher pleasure than to have them kneel down and lower their heads. If you taste this pleasure even once, you can't live without it. Ririana. When I first met you who was courageously judging me with your eyes, I thought that I'd want to mess you up at some point]

[People like you……]

[Na~a, Ririana. Rather than after marriage, if you lose your virginity before the engagement party, what kind of face will you have at the party? While enduring the pain from your groin, what kind of expression will you have in front of the people? A~a, I just can't wait to see it]

For example, even if she feels disgust towards the other party, if she properly supports him as a supportive wife, surely, eventually he will become a splendid emperor, No, the heart that Ririana steeled up had already started cracking.

Ririana realised. In front of her was a grinning man who wanted to see the enduring Ririana's tears fall out desperately, in another sense, he was

definitely the “Crowned Prince of the Empire”.

The dress that she chose in order to not shame Bias, was torn by his hands. The skin of a stainless gem was exposed, Ririana’s face blushed in shame. Both of her hands were suppressed above her head, she wasn’t able to conceal herself with her legs.

Bias while smirking, possibly attempting to kiss her, his face was slowly coming closer to Ririana. Almost like, Ririana’s eyes remained opened wide full of fear. Ririana couldn’t turn her face away because her chin was held in place, unknown to herself, tears began to flow from her eyes due to the fear and shame, then she thought.

I prepared myself for the marriage, but as expected it was impossible, this is too much. In reality, she wanted to dedicate her body and heart to the person she liked and wanted to become happy with them. That was her sincere feelings as a woman that leaked out from the concealed armor called a princess.

And, the stories of Kaori and Shizuku were recalled. Appearing at the time of a pinch, attacking and bringing down the unjust, it was said to be rescued from a swamp of danger, exactly like a fairytale story.

If she prayed for it, would she be saved. Ririana laughed at herself for thinking such foolish thoughts, still, her heart wished for it despite so.

In other words,

-----Save me

Then.

At that moment, Ririana who was pinned down by Bias saw something approaching from behind him, something like a small spider fell from the ceiling! and she witnessed it land. [Eh?] Ririana’s eyes opened wide in surprise at what was before her eyes, when the spider took 1 step with its foot, it sanked into Bias’s neck! the leg pieced though.

[Ow! What? Just now, my neck.....]

He felt pain running through his neck, Bias who was about to lock lips

with Ririana's stopped and felt his neck. At that time, the spider had already retreated back up it's string and onto the ceiling.

Ririana watched the scene in amazement, Bias suddenly became sluggish and his eyes were starting to shut, immediately after that, he lost consciousness as is, and fell down onto Ririana.

[Eh? Eh?]

In front of the confused Ririana, again, the spider climbed down it's string onto Bias. Bias is currently still covered on top of Ririana, the spider climbed down to his shoulder which was before Ririana's eyes. While staring at it upclose, Ririana noticed a strangeness from the spider for the first time.

[……Metal…..spider?]

Right, the spider that was on Bias's shoulder was made of metal. In front of the popeyed Ririana, the metal spider, [Stop~!], said to it, again, ~Pusu~! a different foot from a while ago was thrust into Bias's neck. Despite already losing his consciousness he shook! Bias started trembling. He was still breathing, so it wasn't meant to be a decisive blow.

Ririana didn't think it's purpose was to actually deliver the final blow though. And, the girl stared quietly at the spider before her eyes. If Ririana looked closer she noticed that the metal spider had a luster like crystal, it crawled up its string and smoothly returned to the ceiling.

[Ah, wait, please wait! By any chance, are you…..]

Although Ririana called out to it confusedly, the metal spider continued on ignoring her, while clinging to the ceiling with its 8 feet, ~Kisa Kisa~ it moved towards the outside wall. Then a slight red light was emitted, it walked out of the room while closing the hole it made through the wall and escaped.

While sitting down, Ririana used the torn dress to cover herself and at last the situation was understood, she muttered to herself while smiling.

[Thank you…..Nagumo-san]

Bias was Ririana's fiance, just now in the place that she was helped, she understood when it patched up the hole. But, still, at this time, having answered her plea for help, she was helplessly glad. She gripped both her hands tightly as she held down the torn dress on her chest, Alternatively, it looked like she was grasping onto something else*I couldn't tell if this was supposed to be a perverted reference or if this was in the meaning of her heart being taken away*.

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Hajime and them who left the reception room was guided into another room by the maid attendants. After sending away the maid, Hajime who always had his eyes shut and was concentrating on something, abruptly opened them. Yue who noticed called out to Hajime in fewer words that usual.

[.....How was it? Hajime]

[.....N~, excelent. .....there was something troublesome in the middle of it though.....60% of the plan was completed]

The voice that answered Yue was slow and was concentrating on something else.

[that's fast. As expected, are there many traps?]

[.....that's right. but, there's no reason to disarm them all]

[Fumu, it's great that there's a party today. If people gather, it's easier to move around in various ways]

[It seems that people have finally begun to gather at the party hall huh. .....Will it go well?]

Shia said with a slightly uneasy expression.

After all, a once-in-a-lifetime great event that'll decide her families futures is on the line. It would be weird if she wasn't tensed. Towards such a Shia, Hajime felt her Usamimi's, Yue caressed her cheeks, Teio was brushing her hair, and Kaori tightly clasped her hand.

To the smiling companions, Shia's feelings began swelling up in her
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throat.

However, tears did not come down. For instance, even if it were tears of joy, it'll be far to early to be crying when nothings even started yet. In its place, just like always, she smiled her bright smile. I'm not alone. My family is here too. I'm blessed to have them, her smile revealed such thoughts. It was the charm that Hajime and them liked about Shia.

Hajime who confirmed that Shia had smiled, is happy to have such a powerful companion and a smile that resembles a childs mischief grin appeared on his face.

[Now then, shall we prepare the stage for the main characters?]

To those words, Shia, Yue, Teio, and Kaori also had a similar smile and nodded powerfully.

Chapter 118 : Party of Welcome and Engagement

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

The sun has completely fallen, the corners of the Imperial castle become encased in darkness. 2 Empire soldiers were on patrol around the perimeter of the building leading to the dungeon. Some kind of torch-like fire magic was burning brightly in their hands, they're paying a lot of attention towards the darkness in case of intruders.

[Ha~a, the upper brasses party should be around this time……I bet they're eating delicious food….]

[Oi, don't talk about meaningless things. If it's found out, we'll both be held responsible]

The soldiers sigh was mixed in with his grumbling as he looked towards the light of the other soldier further up ahead. Though both of them were frowning, their expression's were due to different reasons. If anything, the atmosphere was like the feeling of "becoming even hotter because you've complained about the heat being hot." In the back of their heads, they both released a complain.

[Though however, you've also woken up early, you'd also want to attend those kinds of things?]

[……Well yeah. though If we were allowed to go, there would be the problem of not having money nor a woman…..]

[Thats right~. After eating and getting drunk at the party, they'll be playing with the ladies until morning? It's like heaven. Ah~, rather than some meaningless patrolling, I want to embrace women~. The

Usagininzoku women would be good~]

[You like Usagininzoku women right. Although all the other Demi-human women have nice bodies, the only thing you think about at the brothels are the Usagininzoku]

[That's because those guys are the best out of the bunch when threatening them. They cry out in a good voice]

[That's a rather distasteful hobby.....]

[What are you talking about. Don't you think that the Usagininzoku's just give out a, please tease me, aura? I'm only granting that wish. Even you like to crush countless people down]

[There's no helping it though? They cry out in a good voice]

The 2 patrolling soldiers looked at one another in interest and began laughing out vulgarly.

In the Empire, the fact that Demi-humans were considered tools won't change. In order to release their stress and sexual desires, there were many variety of tools that they could use. Therefore, these 2 are special, not through their sadistic characters though, it could be said that it was commonsense that every Empire soldier had the tendency of liking to shame their partner.

Then, at that time, one of the soldiers gave out a voice and expression as if they saw something unknown in the shadows of the buildings.

[N? .....Oi, just now, something.....]

[Ah? What is it?]

While thrusting out the torch before himself, the soldier was moving towards the buildings shadow. The other soldier also followed along while voicing out his doubt.

The first soldier proceeded to say, [Is anyone there?], but there was a gap in the buildings that was just barely big enough to fit one person! he turned the torch of fire towards it.

However, there wasn't the figure of the shadow he had seen awhile ago,

[Did I see wrong……], he muttered as he sighed in relief. Then, he turned around to look at his comrade while smiling wryly……

[My bad, I saw wr-……? Oi, Maul? Where are you? Maul?]

His comrade was not there, only the torch that he held was on the ground where he was once standing. Where did he go, the soldier looked around restlessly throughout the vicinity, however there wasn't any shadow's of a person. Then he felt a cold sensation running through his spine.

He began to feel fear welling up, the soldier went to pick up the torch that was suddenly fallen on the ground and called out to his comrade in high tension……

[Oi, Maul. Quit joking arou----gu!?]

At that moment, two arms expanded without a sound from the gap in the buildings that no one was at earlier.

A black frosted knife that absorbed even light was being gripped in one of the hands which seemed to have grown out directly from the darkness, simultaneously, one hand covered up the soldiers mouth, and with the other, stabbed him through his medulla oblongata *its a part of your brain*.

In an instant, the soldier's body that was convulsing started relaxing as strength left his body and disappeared into the darkness as it was dragged by the two arms.

And before anyone noticed, the torch that he was trying to pick up had disappeared and nothing was left, only a lukewarm evening wind blowing softly.

A small whisper can be heard from the wind in the darkness.

[HQ, this is Alpha. Suppression of Point C is complete]

[Alpha, this is HQ. Roger that. Move towards Point E. There are 4 sentinels. Sneak around from the East]

[HQ, this is Alpha. Roger that]

After whispering that, two or more people wrapped in black clothes from head to toe, starts moving one after the other.

Though they tightly concealed their faces with a black cloth, only their eyes were clear so that they could see, a sharp gaze was peeping out from there, in addition, they had two small swords bundled on their backs. If they were seen by a Japanese person they would probably say, [Ah~, a Ninja!].

But, even if you can't identify the specific individual, unfortunately their true identities could easily be seen though. That's because overhead of the covers you could see 2 grown Usamimi's standing tall. No matter how you looked at it they were clearly Usagininzoku, the Hauria tribe.

They were concealing themselves under the darkness and shadows of buildings. they quietly peeped their face through there and saw the reported 4 sentinels which were broken into 2 pairs. A hand signal is sent towards the 3 people who were behind the Haura tribe member that called HQ a while ago.

The 3 people nodded in unison and slipped back, they disappeared into the dark as if they melted completely.

After waiting for a few seconds. From the place that was pointed to, ~Chika~ one of the sentinel's glances deviated! and lights twinkled. Similarly, they didn't actually enter the sentinel's view, one of the Hauria opened a lid of a lighter-sized container for in an instant. This had a Green Light Stone inside which imitated a flashlight.

The Hauria which saw the signal began to move while issuing orders with hand signals towards the 2 behind him.

The moment the 2 sentinels were out of eachothers eyesights, they lowered their presence to the limit and quickly approached, one person covers the soldiers mouth and nose while the other stabbed him through his medulla oblongata, another also thrusts through the other soldier's kidney while restraining him with one hand similarly and knocking him down to the ground.

The last person was taking the torches that the sentinels dropped and

put out its fire and confirmed that there are no traces left. Then they dragged the bodies into the shadows of the buildings quickly.

However, as expected due to the long silence from the other pair, the 2 sentinels, [N?], turned their glance.

The appearance of their comrades which they glanced at earlier were no longer there. There's not even light from the torch, only darkness. [Where did those guys go?], the sentinels looked hard with doubtful expressions, they managed to see a shadow that moved faintly in the darkness. It was the figure of something big being dragged.

[Anyway, this is bad!], the sentinel stretched out his hand to reach the alarm whistle which hung on his neck……

In the next instant, a knife was stabbed into the sentinel's neck, there was no time to scream nor time to feel pain, his consciousness drifted into eternal darkness.

Next to the sentinel which held his whistle, similarly was his comrade who was also stabbed by a knife and dead. At the same time, the torches were put out and they dragged the bodies into the shadows of the building.

Presently, similar slaughters were being carried out everywhere at the Imperial castle.

A lot of stationed soldiers which were in pairs of two or more have already experienced an eternal separation from their bodies, soldiers who were sleeping in the barracks were drugged with sleeping pills made in the Sea of Trees which put them into a deep slumber. Even if the alarm was sounded, they'll still be sleeping until morning and there fatigue would be fully relieved.

A crescent moon is now floating in the evening sky.

It's other name was "The 2nd Moon", where it was so thin that you can kinda see it but kinda not as well. *I don't think I got this part correct at all lol, 別名"二日月"と呼ばれる新月の翌日に昇る見えるか見えないかくらいの極細の月だ*

It was exactly like the smile of demon.

The people who praised the principle that strength reigned supreme and cursed the weak, seemed to be completely laughed at under the moon.

~~~~~~

------HQ, this is Alpha. Suppression of Point H4 is complete.

------HQ, this is Bravo. Suppression of all of Point J is complete.

------HQ, this is Charlie. Scattering of sleeping medicine in the barracks is complete.

------HQ, this is Echo. The prince, eldest grandson of the Emperor and 2 princesses have been captured.

At the brightly glittering party hall, Hajime had a unusual smile on his face which was usually impossible and was talking with the aristocrat of the Empire, then he heard the reports of the Hauria which was entering his head one after another.

The hall was large, many places were gorgeous and decorated well. It was in the form of an all you can eat buffet, there were hundreds of dishes and sweets being displayed on the snow-white tablecloths spread on the tabletop, and waiters skilled in etiquette were distributing glass gallantly as they walked.

All of the people participating were VIP's of the Empire. It was only people wearing glittering showy clothes with an atmosphere of mutual understanding of civil officers and military officers, military officers had conceited personalities because of the principles they believed in, the civil officers stood in relief and realized that the military officers were of a higher standing.

Hajime's voice was heard positively speaking with those military officers.

After all, he was "God's Apostle" and in the "Hero's Group". To general people he was a strong man who participated in the capturing of [Orcus
~~~~~~

Great Labyrinth], an indispensable force for the world, “Strength” was likely the standard existence which interested them all. Of course there were also secret desires to create good personal connections with him as well.

To begin with, presently, the people talking to Haime that had no ulterior motives and interests seemed to show more interests in the pretty women which stood by his side and never left it since the party started. it was obvious since their glances were always briefly turned towards Yue and them who waited behind Hajime as they talked with him.

But, it wasn’t completely unreasonable. The party was to welcome princess Ririana as well as her engagement party, Yue and their existences were rather than an uproar of decorated flowers being on display, it was more of the sense of being the leading role of the hall.

Shia wore a moonlight colored miniskirt dress which exposed her slender and beautiful legs.

However, it wasn’t vulgar, from the skirt extending softly, it created a unique atmosphere which empowered all of Shia’s loveliness. It also matched her beautiful straight hair which hung straight down, those factors were probably what gave her so much cuteness and elegance.

Next to her, Teio who was elegantly tilting her wine, wore a black long dress which was similar to her usual black kimono. However, because the dress was the type to show her bodylines, she had an intense bodyline without any irregularities, furthermore, because the back and her chest opened up greatly, it revealed her beautiful hills which could not be called anything but stunning as it was likely to spill out at anytime. The eyesights of the men at the hall would always glance towards it every now and then! They were attracted towards the lethal weapons, one after another their women partners gave them all glances of disgust.

Kaori was dressed in a slender line dress which completely exposed her shoulders. Although her bodyline wasn’t as intense as Teio’s, it’s ballance was definitely molded by God. Her beautiful legs momentarily peeped out through the skirt which had a deep slit like the Chinese dresses called

the Qipao, along with the brightness of her silver hair, it caused her sex appeal to show and eyes unintentionally turned towards her.

And, Hajime's favorite, his beloved blood sucking princess------wore a pure-white wedding dress(modoki *i dono what this is supposed to mean but its in parentheses, モドキ*).

The cloth was lustrous, her shoulders were exposed, and her skirt's hem was ruffled with frills which expanded out greatly. Her hair was in a ponytail with an elegant white flower ornament to hold it in place. Her exposure was-----few in number, it was her glossy white neck, her lips of red rouge which attracted much attention, and her eyes which were slightly moistened had conceived heat which provoked men's desires helplessly. As usual, Yue's charms came from the gap of her childish appearance and her bewitching atmosphere which was enhanced several times over.

Inside of the room, Hajime and the other men were waiting for Yue and them to finish changing but, the moment when they entered, it was unavoidable that they were taken in by the overflowing charm and became completely stiff.

Especially, Hajime whose eyes were completely nailed down to Yue, anyone who saw it would notice that his heart was completely taken away. Yue as well probably understood it. She stared straight back at Hajime with a joyful smile.

Although the other females became angry at Hajime for not glancing at them and was about to start complaining to him, Hajime moved faster and forcefully embraced Yue closely and gave her a deep kiss, now the males without female relationships stiffened up for a different reason, afterwards, they began to tear apart Hajime and Yue who were remaining together forever by force which was also later known as the "Hajime's reasoning was blown away incident"……

Anyways, [Do you understand who's engagement party this is? Ne~e? Do you know?], they began tsukkomi'ing Yue and them who took away the show.

By the way, Shizuku and Suzu was also dressed up, although they were gorgeous enough to not lose to the daughters of the Empire nobles……as expected, they weren't at the level of taking away Hajime's heart like Yue and them, rather they had no strong motive to do so in the first place, to begin with they gave out less of an impression when compared with Yue and them's mature impressions.

[Even still, Nagumo-dono's companions are all beautiful ones]

[That's damn right. I'd like to take one of them to keep me company for the dance after this]

------HQ, this is Delta. Blast preparation points are all prepared.

------HQ, this is India. Suppression of Point M is complete.

To the half-serious words of the Empire nobles, Hajime exchanges a smile with them as he hears the report from telepathy which reached his ears, the entrance to the hall became increasingly noisy. It appears that it was time for the appearance of princess Ririana and his Highness Bias to take the leading role. A civil officer-like man conveyed the appearance of the two people in a loud voice.

Zawa~……

Ririana's figure in a dress emerged from the door which was exaggeratedly opened, people in the hall raised out voices mixed with surprise and perplexity.

It was because Ririana wore a jet black dress which seemed to breath in all the lights. Normally, if you consider Ririana's figure and the outline of the engagement party, a brighter dress would be much more suitable. Towards that fact, [I'm here out of obligation], kind of feeling along with a cleansed face, the jet black dress looked like a wall that Ririana had put on.

Her partner, his Highness Bias as well, with a slightly sour expression as if having crushed a bug, no matter how you looked at it, this was not the scene of a happily married couple, for the time being the hall started being filled with applause, it was a very delicate atmosphere.

As is, those 2 went up to the platform.

the Chairman person allowed the party to progress even though it was puzzling. Looking at Ririana and Bias's states, even now Gaharudo was about to explode out laughing while greeting them, music began to flow into the hall. It was time for the greetings circle to dance with Ririana and the others. Elegant music resounded in the hall which wiped out the delicate atmosphere.

At the center of the hall, Men who took out their flowers began to dance freely. Although it was completely mechanical, Bias and Ririana also danced. Mainly, Ririana's expression was due to the atmosphere.

Even if Bias draws closer forcefully, a slight distance was noticed in regards to the melody. As it was, one piece of music finally finished, Ririana quickly advanced onto the next person in the greetings circle.

Bias had an irritated expression, however, he needed to continue on with the greetings circle. In a state that seemed to subtly care about his groin. Actually, after just having woken up a few minutes ago, he did not have time to confronted Ririana what had happened before the start of the party and no one else knew. For some unknown reason his son was blocked out from reviving (the appearance of the person that revives), feeling impatient and irritated of the situation he could do nothing but follow Ririana, as no one else knew.

------HQ, this is Romeo. Suppression of Point P is complete.

------HQ, this is Tango. Suppression of Point R is complete.

[How do I say this, that not like Riri at all. Usually she'd hide her real intentions.....]

Kaori muttered as she saw Ririana exchanging greetings indifferently without a smile.

[.....Ma~a, Those kinds of things are impossible huh. The princess must also have a lot of things to think about]

[.....Many things?]

Yue and them became puzzled at Hajime's words.

[Nagumo-kun, did something happen to Riri?]

[Oi, Yaegashi. What do you mean by that, come on]

Shizuku was in a wine-red long dress and looked at Hajime suspiciously.

[Because, Riri's showing that kind of attitude in a public place.....if something insane happened then, it's roughly Nagumo-kun's fault right? That's been the rule for all the times up till now. In fact, you seem like you know something]

[Chi, that's hard to refute.....but, this time I've really done nothing. Just that, as I was passing by I helped out the Princess who was about to be raped by the crowned prince]

[Right, Riri was being ra-.....what was that?]

[Wait a second, Hajime-kun!? Just now what did you!?]

Led by Shizuku and Kaori, everyone turns a surprised look towards Hajime.

Since the dance started a lot of troublesome men have come to ask Yue and them for a dance, although Yue and them had no intentions of dancing with any other man other than Hajime, presently, they've all been driven away by Hajime's "Pressure", so only Yue and them as well as Shizuku was around.

Kouki was forcibly taken out by the ladies and was dancing desperately as he wasn't accustomed to it, while Ryutaro was single-mindedly eating. Suzu was dancing with a dandy*lol didn't notice I spelt that wrong, thanks Schion93* old man in a, [Ho~ee] kind of feeling.

Therefore, the only people who heard about Ririana almost being raped by Bias was Yue and them. Unexpectedly, Kaori and Shizuku demanded with lots of momentum for an explanation from Hajime, attention started to gather around.

[Ah~, yes, that's why.....Yue, do you want to dance once?]

[N~.....I'd be pleased]

[Ah, wait a second, Nagumo-kun! Don't run away just because it's become troublesome! Explain it properly to us!]

[Th, that's right! It's an important matter! Properly explain it!]

According to Shizuku's words, Hajime who thought that an explanation would be too troublesome, took Yue's hand and planned to escape onto the dance hall. In another sense, the attention was focused on the girl with a pretty face which resembled a work of art much more remarkable than Ririana who was the leading role and on the boy who was her partner (Tuxedo Ver.) with white hair and an eye patch.

Normally, in order to match Yue who was accustomed to royal dances and was leading, Hajime decided to use "Light Speed" while dancing. Since the dance was being observed, he wanted to look good. Joyfully, Yue's expression was that of someone who was filled with happiness, and Hajime's eyes were softening towards that, combined with their clothes and looking from the sides, it was completely an engagement party for those two.

Although the musicians somewhere desperately tried to heat up the place as it became awkward, they used Hajime and Yue's atmosphere to begin playing joyfully. By now, the leading role in the hall is Hajime and Yue, everyone paid attention to the two that were dancing round and round happily.

Towards such people, Ririana watched them with a smile. In there laid some color of envy as well.

On one hand, there was a group of women yearning for Hajime, and more may appear in the future, Ririana temporarily pushed the events that just happened into the corner of her head, [Who's next!?], it became a battle for the second person.

The performance would be ending soon, Grand applause was presented towards the two people who were kissing with each other lightly as the aristocrats of the Empire were watching with smiles. In their eyes, pure feelings of admiration and praise were seen. The daughters of the noblemen as well, [Ho~u], absentmindedly leaked out hot sighs.

Hajime and Yue gracefully bowed in return towards the applause and returned to their friends while holding hands. Apparently Teio won the competition and gets the next dance, she looked towards Hajime with eyes of expectation.

However, Teio's expectation was easily betrayed.

[Nagumo Hajime-sama, would you please accompany me for one dance?]

Right, it was because another person had already called out to him.

The other person was Ririana.

[Princess....for the leading role to be separating from their partner, what happened suddenly?]

[Ara, that leading role was just deprived of her seat, so aren't those words rather cruel?]

[Isn't it because you've got that work face on? Actually, is it alright to leave the crowned prince alone?]

[If it's about the greetings circle it's practically finished already, now is the time to enjoy the party. In the first place we're supposed to dance with several people. Look, the crowned prince is also dancing with one of his mistresses]

[A mistress.....you don't look concerned at all huh]

[Fufu. Rather than that, I'd like you to take my hand soon....can you not dance?]

Hajime noticed that Ririana didn't only want to dance but also say something, he could roughly guess what it was she wanted to talk about, with a, what should I do, he scratched his cheek. To be honest, he wanted to keep bathing in the afterglow of dancing with Yue.....

Then, towards the hesitating Hajime, Yue who was next to him said, [Meh!]. It seemed she said that to convey to not disgrace Ririana at a public place. Yue understood that Hajime couldn't decide on what to do so the, [Meh!], that was said to decide things for him.

[Ah~, I get it. .....I would be happy to be your partner, Princess]

[.....Yes]

Had they attracted attention, there was an unusual action of Hajime respectfully taking Ririana's hand and led her towards the center of the dance hall. Previously, the dance with Yue was still probably within their minds. Ririana has a slightly ashamed attitude and the degree of attention towards that is high.

By the way, during the interactions with Ririana, nobody cared about Teio who hardened up as her hand was held out for a long time. [Th, this timing, so it's come! Whatever you do, I understand master! Haa~ Haa~.....N~], with reddened and blushed cheeks, nobody bothered to tsukkomi.

The melody of music began to flow out calmly. Ririana and Hajime were sticking close to one another as their bodies shook waveringly gracefully. Ririana whispered quietly while her face drawn close to his shoulder.

[.....Thank you very much for a little while ago]

[As I thought, it was that.....so you know]

[Such an insane situation, it couldn't be anyone but you right? Besides, your "Deep Red" is very beautiful.....I wouldn't mistake that]

[Is that so? Ma~a, the first prince of the Empire is also stuck with that, it's only a temporary measure though*Thanks The_Codfish, I thought it sounded odd lol*. Sooner or later]

[You're just saying it blatantly huh. .....But, even if it was just an example I was glad. I heard from Kaori about when you saved them, I longed for that a little bit]

She said as she separated from Hajime's shoulder with a little smile on her face. That smile was Ririana's original charm which couldn't be compared to with the one seen with Bias a while ago, the surrounding aristocrats which were paying attention became slightly noisy when they noticed.

[And, are various things settled about your attitude in that dress?]

[Does it not match me?]

[It suits you. But, as expected that pink dress would have suited you more. Did you plan on insinuating*hint that something bad had happened* them to reveal the truth?]

[Yes, because this degree is enough for a husband who assaults his wife……more so…..as expected you saw everything through that spider huh. …..My improper appearance….a~a, I'm not fit to be a bride anymore]

Yoyoyo~! then, towards Ririana who buried her face onto Hajime's shoulder again while pretending to break down, [What are you talking about….], Hajime looked at her with a ridiculous expression.

[Despite saying it in a low voice, don't say such seldom remarks in such a place. Or rather, haven't you been making too much contact since a while ago? The crowned prince has quite the incredible expression?]

[It's fine isn't it. Once this night ends I'll be the crown princess. Just for now, allow me to be just a girl. Also, I'll be assaulted one day, can't you succumb to the selfishness of a pitiful bullied princess for a little while?]

[Being assaulted, it's not set that you'll be bullied……]

[It's already a fact]

There Ririana, while hiding her expression by clinging onto Hajime tightly, suddenly muttered something as if on accident.

[……If…….if, I said "Help" what would you do?]

Ririana herself didn't plan on hearing about these things. It was necessary to put a conclusion to the matrimonial relationship between the prince of the Empire for the future. Both countries took damage from the surprise attacks from the demons that the Majinzoku brought, it was necessary to show strength of unity as humans to stabilize things now that the head church temple had disappeared. As someone from the royal family, she should take on that role. For example, even if a painful marriage life filled with the lost of her dignity awaits her.

But still asking Hajime of such things, her voice trembled with fear from the bottom of her heart in the case of the help that she was expecting for doesn't come, having seen Yue look so happy while being embraced by Hajime, she thought that surely Hajime would say, "I refuse". And she steeled herself for that possibility. It was because she thought that it would be fine for her to be selfish for this one time.

But, Hajime's answer was completely off from what she expected.

[Ma~a, before I accompany you, you'll be saved regardless? In this case, the Empire(. . .) may be ending tonight.....at the very least, the crowned prince would be hopeless]

[.....Yes?*more of a, what?, sense*]

------HQ, this is Victor. Suppression of Point S is complete.

------HQ, this is X-Ray*thanks Dim1 that does sound right lol, イクスレイ*. Suppression of Point Y is complete.

Towards Ririana who instinctively looks up, Hajime's mouth lifts up into a grin.

His expression was seen and a bad feeling surged into Ririana's mind. There wasn't a touching atmosphere like a while ago, Ririana felt her cheeks cramping up. Hajime quietly drew his mouth close to Ririana's ear.

[And also, I'll make it so that you can understand easier. I'm insensitive, so I might end up doing something carelessly]

[~.....]

Ririana's body shook with a shock. Though there was the breath and voice coming down onto her ear, it's because she understood what Hajime was implying.

In other words, "I'll Help you". Ririana's heart was shaken intensely. The princess within Ririana began to shout. This marriage is an obligation that should be fulfilled. That's why, I wanted you to cast away that girl who held onto those dreams in one strike.Then.

[Why?], in another sense acting upon cruel treatment, or perhaps it was due to her joy that her eyes moistened up towards Hajime, Hajime acted as if it was nothing, in another sense, he replied without reading the atmosphere and gave the worst response possible.

[The Princess is unfortunate, to be feeling bad for those guys]

Hajime said so and glanced over towards Kaori and them. In brief, their purpose was not exactly for Ririana's sake, although Hajime said, Ririana was unfortunate, he seemed to also imply don't hurt my "Important" people*This line was quite shaky for me, it was either this or he was being a tsundere, or he was implying that she wasn't important?*. Ririana guessed so and stared at Hajime.

[Isn't that, too much of a lie even if it's coming from you? We'll, surely fall?]

[What are you going do if it happens? Ma~a, for the time being, it's just necessary to think that the worst outcome that you've thought of won't be happening. As long as you're important friends of these fellows, that is]

[……Nagumo-san's resolution doesn't shake huh……..truly, I'm envious of Yue-san]

Ririana watches Hajime with a hateful expression. Hajime was indifferent towards it and glanced right back. Then finally the end of the music was coming up. Hajime looked unfazed, Ririana who eventually gave up, [Fuu~], breathed outwards and leaned her body onto Hajime, she decided to at least momentarily enjoy the dance for now.

And while leaving a lingering sound, the music stopped, Ririana reluctantly parted her body away, and for a while kept their hands held together while quietly staring at Hajime……[Thank you] she muttered. With a lovely smile just like a flower that was fully bloomed.

It was simply the smile of a 14-year-old girl. A smile that was so pure that it didn't have any impurities, it pierced through all the hearts of the people who saw it. A sigh filled with heat could be heard somewhere. And, after a while, a grand applause which didn't lose against Yue's dance from a while ago resounded. It appears that Ririana only danced with the

other people simply because it was required, Hajime separated from her and returned alone, and the eyes of ladies greeted him.

[Hajime-kun's a woman killer.....]

[.....Hajime-san, when on earth did you.....I can't let down my guard at all]

[No~o, Master. I got a little wet from the neglecting play, is it alright for me to change my underwear?]

[This has to do with those assault remarks from a while ago right. .....You said something about helping out Riri during a dangerous time, did you plan on dealing the finishing blows during the dance? Ne~e, what exactly did you whisper to her? To begin with, isn't Riri a married woman now? Do you understand? Ne~e, do you understand? Nagumo-kun?]

[Hawawa, Nagumo-kun, finally you've obtained the NETORI*taking another person's lover* attribute.....you're too much of an adult. You've well exceeded Suzu's capacity]

A number of perverted remarks were mixed in, equally, towards the female group that was bad mouthing him and Ririana, [What are you talking about], he said with an amazed expression.

Hajime began talking, he helped out while he was passing by, then danced only because it was requested of him. Afterwards, because Kaori and them would be concerned, he only informed them the minimum amount about how he helped.

There was no intentions of persuading them in any way. And if by chance, to the hundredth millionth decimal, that Ririana fell in love with Hajime, Hajime himself gave off a [Like I care?] feeling.

For now, just to be sure, he turned his gaze towards Yue to not misunderstand it, Yue understood and gripped onto Hajime's hand in assent while nodding her head, as expected Yue was different from them, his love for Yue knew no bounds and rose way beyond the universe. It must have been his imagination that her grip was stronger than usual.

------HQ, this is Zulu. Suppression of Point Z is complete

------Notify the entire force, this is HQ, all arrangements have been completed. Start the countdown.

Shia's expression stiffened up a little as she heard the communication. Kaori had a slightly tensed expression as well. Shizuku and them who were not given the Telepathy stone (Improved Ver.), only looked at the 2 with suspicious expressions. Moreover, Gaharudo often went up onto the platform on a daily bases and kept glancing towards Hajime and them. This time it appears that he was going to give out a speech and a toast in celebration.

[Now then, first of all, let me express our gratitude for having joined us on this party which serves as a celebration for Princess Ririana visiting our country as well as being engaged with my son. There were many various surprises and it indeed became an interesting event]

Then Gaharudo turned a meaningful glance towards Hajime. Hajime was pretending to not know. Gaharudo's expression seems to convey that it's become even more interesting.

At the same time, a resolute voice was heard from Hajime's telepathy stone.

------To all troops. This is Alpha One. From this point on we will put an end to this persecution we've suffered through for hundreds of years, we will carve our names into the history of this world. Our name will be used as the pronunciation of fear. This place is the intersection of fate. Will we fall into hell or advance towards the future, everything depends on this one battle. There's no need to hold back. Sa~a, we'll show them just how weak our claws and fangs are

------10, 9, 8.....

------Boss. For leading us into this battle, we deeply appreciate it.

Hajime and them heard the Usagininzoku's countdown which concerned their fates.

The aristocrats of the Empire doesn't suspect a thing.

the speeches of the 2 different races overlapped with one another.

[The party has only just begun. Tonight, eat a lot, drink a lot, and dance as much as your heart pleases. It will become the best blessings for my son and daughter-in-law. Sa~a, raise your cups!]

As Gaharudo confirmed that everyone in the hall held up their cups, he poured himself wine to the very brim of his cup. And, with his breath taking initiative with a ~Suu~ breathing in with ambition.

The other side of the telepathy also, once again similarly.

------Get fired up! Let's go!!!

------[[[[[[[[[[Ou~!!!]]]]]]]]]]

------4, 3, 2, 1.....

And, the countdown has finally----

[The unity of humanity will become stronger with this marriage! There is nothing to fear! We are the glorious Human race!]

[[[[[[[[[[For Glory!!]]]]]]]]]]

------0. I wish you great fortune in war.

At that moment.

All lights vanished and the hall was swallowed by darkness.

Chapter 119 : Hauria VS. Emperor -First Part-

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

[What!? What happened!?]

[Iya~a!? What's with this!?]

The aristocrats of the Empire who were suddenly deprived of one of their senses shouted out angrily in a shaky voice which contained confusion and unrest.

[Don't panic! Use magic to create ligh-ga~a!?]

[What's wron-gya~!?]

[What happen-gu~!?]

A relatively calm person tried to create a sphere of light while giving out instructions to others to secure their vision. However, the sound of a scream and something falling down happened right afterwards. At the same time, the confused aristocrats all begin screaming one after another.

The place soon sanked into confusion once again. Especially, the mademoiselles who completely fell into panic and began running around blindly, the sounds of collisions and people falling resounded out rapidly from various places.

[Calm down! Can you bastards still call yourselves soldier's of the Empire!]

Gaharudo's voice filled with ambition resounded throughout the hall in the darkness. With the loud scolding voice, the aristocrats who started

falling into panic and screaming due to the darkness stopped.

However……

Hyu! Hyu! Hyu!

[~!? Chi! Sneaking around so annoyingly!]

Countless arrows came flying towards Gaharudo from the darkness.

With short notice, a surprise attack of arrows which held amazing speed and power attacked Gaharudo from all directions. Moreover, it was pulled off with exquisite timing, being bombarded with arrows which were incredibly accurate was definitely a bad position to be in, with so much flying towards him Gaharudo had no choice but be pushed into a one-sided defensive battle. He couldn't afford to give out instructions to recover the situation anymore.

Still in the pitch black darkness, while fending the blows with the ceremonial sword, he could only grasp where the arrows were coming from due to the noise of them cutting through the air. The noise surrounding Gaharudo began raising out roars. Gin! Gin! Gin! The sound of metal colliding resounded out.

The sounds of peoples screams resounded one after the other while collapsing, due to Gaharudo's scolding, people who regained their calm created fireballs to act as a light.

They called out to the guards loudly while looking around their surroundings with a fierce expression.

Something like a black shadow zinged by in the edge of their sights! It traveled quickly as if slicing through the wind.

[~!? Who are y-ggebu!?]

Immediately the aristocrat man tried to shoot a fireball towards the shadow.

However, the shadow that dashed out from the darkness dressed in black (+Usamimis) immediately pulled out a small black sword which completely blended in with the darkness, as if it was a joke, a head was

mown down instantly.

~Pon~ the head flew through the air and rolled around on the ground with the vivid sounds. The head had a blank face, it seems he didn't notice that he was no longer connected with his body.

Before anyone noticed, all fireballs which were illuminating the surroundings had disappeared and the only color left was the darkness.

The aristocrats and mademoiselles gathered towards the people who created fireballs like moths being provoked by the light, they managed to catch a glimpse of the shadow's Usamimis immediately before the fireball was extinguished, then the spectacle of the persons head flying through the air was witnessed immediately afterwards. Then once again, their waists gave out against the assailant who disappeared under the cover of the darkness.

[Hi~, m, monster~!]

[I, I don't want to die~, someone, anyone!]

Most of the people unable to stand up were the mademoiselle and civil officers, quite a few of the military officers as well too. Their minds couldn't endure the darkness which was equivalent to the death god's sickle and the assailant's existence which appeared right in front of their eyes.

As such, without exception, without being able to do anything, and while doing nothing, the tendons in their hands and feet were cut by the person dressed in black soundlessly, they fell laying on the ground writhing in pain.

Although there were those pathetically miserable people, as a military nation which adheres to the principles that abilities reigned supreme, some couldn't permit themselves to continue wailing away in confusion forever. Veterans who survived countless battles, although they didn't have a sword like Gaharudo, relied on their daggers which they kept in their breast pocket for self defense, they united with their companions and began creating a battle formation.

while back to back with one another, the magicians were placed in the center. It was splendid cooperation.

The people who were relatively nearby to Gaharudo immediately created a battle formation to defend his back. The range that Gaharudo had to consider was immediately decreased by half, now the attacks were no longer a problem. Gaharudo began chanting while knocking down dozens of arrows to the side.

A bit less than 10 fireballs were produced in an instant and shot out at surprising speeds. They spread out throughout the hall and began to brighten up the darkness.

Begin the counter attack! Though it was Gaharudo yelling out threateningly, immediately afterwards, a lump of metal rolled around in front of him.

[What? Is this……]

The man who serves as Gaharudo's aid moved in closer to check out the objects purpose with suspicion. It wasn't only him though, others who secured their lightsource at different areas were the same.

Gaharudo had an severely unpleasant premonition, he immediately yelled out in a controlling voice

[Stop! Don't get clos-!?]

[~!?]

Although the aid who heard Gaharudo's words reflectively tried to leap back but, that action was meaningless judging by the effects of the lump of metal. That was proven in the next instant.

Ka!

Kyiiiiiin!!

All of the sudden, just when you thought the lump of metal popped, intense light surged out and an immense sound indiscriminately violated the surroundings.

[Gua~a!?]

[Guu~u!]

[What is!?]

The moment the light bursted out, Gaharudo shut his eyes and covered his face with his arms, he wasn't able to completely block out the surprise attack, although his eyes were shut tight he still couldn't see temporarily, he also lost his hearing due to the severe ringing in his ears as well.

And, the Hauria assailants couldn't overlook this golden opportunity.

The Hauria's dressed in black rushed forwards with exquisite timing and immediately came within the targets bosom while they killed off their presence. Then with one spark from the small jet black sword, a second spark emitted again.

With 2 of their senses taken away from them, the tendons in the officers hands and feet were easily cut without any kind of resistance.

The aides screamed in pain as they fell and laid on the ground.

Immediately, their tongues were torn through by a knife. The purpose was to restrict them from chanting. Several people prostrated themselves in the same manner in various places, bleeding on the ground with the tendons in their hands and feet cut and from their mouths. People who tried to fire off big magics were mercilessly beheaded.

Meanwhile, ~Gin Gin Gin~! the sound of metal clashing resounded out. Surprising it was Gaharudo who had lost his sight and hearing, he was able to slash back at the two Haruia tribe members who killed off their presence to the utmost limit.

The two Haura members which were attacking opened their eyes wide in surprise from this demonstration.

Did he feel their unrest in that instant, taking advantage and with fighting spirit, Gaharudo generated a shock wave by using Quake Legs.

[~!?]

[Ku~!?]

The 2 haruia whose stance was broken instinctively let out a groan. And Gaharudo accurately sliced sideways towards the side of the 2 people as if his eyes and ears weren't damaged at all.

[Scatter and disperse! "Wind Wall"!]

The two haruia members were pushed aside by the sword's destructive power as they were just barely able to receive the attack with their small swords, a terrific barrage of arrows were shot at Gaharudo and with the wall of wind which only took 2 words to cast, all of the arrows trajectory was easily averted.

[Shoot out! "Flame Bullet"!]

The magic was once again duplicated. 10 "Flame Bullets" were produced which were stronger than the "Fire Balls" from before. It shot back towards the trajectory at which the arrows had originated from when in contact with the "Wind Wall".

They shuddered from the abnormal presence of Gaharudo who shout out countless magic with power and speed. The Hauria who had hidden their presence unintentionally leaked out their presences slightly.

Gaharudo's closed eyelids opened up slightly, although he shouldn't be able to see yet, his eyes carried the light of a dangerous wild beast. And with a grin! he turned his neck and glanced accurately at the direction where the Hauria were in the darkness. He had felt the presence that leaked out a while ago.

[Oooo~o! Burst out, "Flame Bullet"!]

While turning his back against the Flame Bullets he shot out, Gaharudo rushed straight towards the Hauria in the darkness and chanted once again. Immediately, the flame bullet in the back flew towards the ceiling of the party hall and exploded loudly with a roar.

The Hauria who were on the ceiling providing support with their crossbows, quickly withdrew to evade the flame bullet, but because the flame bullet exploded, it wasn't possible to completely dodge it due to the heat wave generated that scattered widely. At the very least, the places

which were used as scaffolding were collapsing down, in the little time before they manage to reach the next sniping point, support cover has completely ceased.

[Dancing wind! Carry out my will, “Sound of Wind”!]

Gaharudo casted his next magic in that timeframe. Supplementary magic “Sound of Wind” from the wind system. It interferes with the surrounding air and amplifies sound, it’s a magic that allows small sounds in the distance to be heard. His hearing was amplified to megavolume, with the assist of this magic he’ll likely regain his hearing.

Certainly, it could be said that this was the magic version of the skill presence perception when applied. Though I say that, the accuracy decreases because they’re being perceived through hearing only, concentration was required to make sense of what’s heard due to that it’s an unsuitable magic to be used during the proximity of battle. This was a basic magic that scouts and secret agents used for information gathering.

[Raa~aa!!]

[Tsu------!!]

[Kuu~u!]

Along with the yell of fighting spirit, his slashes bent and transformed as if he were using a whip.

While raising out a voice of anguish, Gaharudo deceive his senses by overriding them to feel the presences, the Haruia managed to get through it by cooperating with each other. However, because of “Sound of Wind” their presences were seen though. With each step the Hauria took, they generated a subtle sound in the wind.

With his sight deprived, although the method being used was far from proper “Presence Perception”, with a torrent of blood thirst, courage and ferociousness, Gaharudo moved forwards without hesitation and entrusted his body to the information gathering magic.

This is the Emperor. This is the head of a military nation. The king of warriors who boast that power is everything!

This was what the Hauria's managed to feel first hand.....

However, everyone had a ghastly smile on their lips that was far from shrinking away. The eyes that pierced through the masks shone ferociously in glare, a heavy thirst for blood surged out from each and everyone of them. If they couldn't hide their presence, then they'll just cooperate and bring him down! As if announcing that, the Haruia began to move as if they were all one creature.

[Kukuku, You're giving off quite the good thirst for blood there! Na~a, Hauria's!]

The cooperation attack was on the level that wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that it exceeded the techniques based on hit and run from all directions pouring in. While fighting back against the peculiar swordsmanship, Gaharudo shouted out happily. It appears that he found out that they were the Hauria tribe long ago.

Even though they heard Gaharudo's shout, the Haruia were silent. They only singlemindedly released their murderous intent.

[A~a? You guys won't let out shocked voices!?]

Judging from his words, as expected, only his sense of hearing has recovered a little thanks to the magic. Towards Gaharudo's shout, the Haruias released especially strong thirst for blood------while Cam was brandishing his two short swords, he replied back while overflowing with murderous intent.

[Those are tasteless words on the battlefield. Survive if you can]

[~! Ha, just what I wanted!]

Sparks danced in the darkness and the sword swings became much more intense like a storm.

However, the blades didn't reach either bodies. Tens of seconds, several minutes.....the people whose mouths, arms, and legs were cut in a certain places began to have anguished expressions, they prayed for their kings victory while being irritated that no one was rushing in from the outside.

At the same time, they guessed that the assailants from the shadows were Usagininzoku due to seeing as the sparks were produced by the swords, towards that impossible scene and towards the unknown, they were desperately holding in the fear they felt.

Then, at that time, their expectation was betrayed by the situation.

[~!, What the? my body.....]

Gaharudo suddenly began to stagger, his movements rapidly dulled. As if saying, [We were waiting for this!], the Hauria sprang from all directions.

Although Gaharudo somehow managed to resist back, it appears that Gaharudo's oddness was assumed to happen from the beginning, an arrow shot out with exquisite timing and dug deeply into Gaharudo's calf.

[Gua!]

Cam wielded his small sword towards Gaharudo who was folding from his knees. While blocking Gaharudo's sword with one short sword, the other was used to cut through the tendon in his arm, his sword finally dropped to the ground.

Although Gaharudo tried to move instantly with magic, 2 of the Haruia's blocked his way at that exact moment and wielded their small swords in confirmation of the battle still going on, they destroyed and blew away the magic formation and the artifact that was being concealed. At the same time, the remaining arm and legs tendons were cut.

[Tsu-------]

Severe pain was gushing out, however, Gaharudo didn't scream out, his body began to incline slowly against his will, and ~Dosha~ it was the sound of his body falling prone on the ground.

The party hall fell silent and no words were emitted. Though a few were physically unable to say anything due to their mouths being forced shut, surely, even if they could open their mouths, none of them would have been able to actually say anything.

The Emperor of the Hoelscher Empire was defeated.

Even if their view was shut by darkness, they could tell. Towards that fact, the shock was so huge it erased everything else from their minds.

One of the Haruia tribe members approached Gaharudo who was still laying on the ground. And for now, gave him medicine to recover his sight and hearing. This was done in order to negotiate about the future.

[Fu~n, a monsters paralysis poisoning was scattered here so that you'd stay in place]

[Damn it, were you aiming for that from the beginning……]

Gaharudo was removed of all magic formations and artifacts that were inscribed onto his clothing. When Cam told him of the reason why his body was acting abnormally after restoring his sight and hearing, he cursed out at him.

Light suddenly poured down over Gaharudo's head. It was due to one of the Hauria's equipment which acted as a flashlight. It shined down on Gaharudo as if it was a spotlight.

[Wwwwwwww, what does this mean!? Ttttttt, this!? Nyanyanya, Nyagumo-san!? jjj, just what!!]

[It's fine, calm down a little princess. Right now is the climax after all]

With the tendons in the hands and feet cut, clothes torn up here and there because of the destruction of the magic formations, the appearance of Gaharudo being illuminated by the light appeared on the ground, with lots of agitation Ririana's mouth closed and opened while shakingly asking Hajime questions who she assumed was the reason for such an event.

During the attack, although Ririana was besides the crowned prince Bias, Hajime instantaneously retrieved her and returned to his original position. During the Hauria's strategy execution, Hajime and them all gathered in the corner of the hall so that they don't become obstructive.

Kouki was frowning grandly as he noticed that many aristocrats were

dead. Suzu, Shizuku, and Ryutaro fell silent with a difficult expression. This was the biggest chance of improving the Demi-humans standings, because they understood this they kept silent as the battle was literally deciding the Haruia's fates, though they still couldn't fully accept the tragedy that unfolded in front of their presence so easily.

In the first place, there was no other choice but to just watch things happen. If they let out their emotions, [Anymore than this is overdoing it!], they'd be obstructing Cam, at that instant, they would be attacked in the back by a railgun.

Although Ririana was speaking loudly and shakingly in unrest, Hajime had Kouki well within view and consideration. Shizuku was thinking about what to do in the case that that does happen, in another sense, cold sweat appeared more from Hajime's glances at Kouki than of the Haruia's massacre.

[Now then, Gaharudo D. Hoelscher. Do you understand why you're still alive right now?]

[Fu~n, you have demands right? Just say them, I'll listen]

[……Points deducted. Gaharudo. Know where you stand]

The appearance wasn't seen but the voice of a man echoed throughout the hall. It's true identity was Cam.

Although Cam called out to Gaharudo who was on the ground, from Gaharudo's insolent attitude, after several intervals, he gave out advice in a mechanical voice.

And, the advice didn't stop at just words.

Suddenly, the spotlight distanced itself from Gaharudo. There, with the tendons in their hands and legs cut just like Gaharudo, it was the appearance of a man whose tongue was torn to seal off chants. An arm extended from outside of the spotlight and was gripping onto the man's hair and forced him to stand on his knees, in the next instant, the man's head as if jokingly was easily cut off.

[You bastard!]

[Points deducted]

Gaharudo instinctively raised out an angry voice. The other survivors should have seen it perfectly from where they were at. Breathtaking screams could be heard. However, in a serene voice just like a machine was returned towards Gaharudo's attitude.

Then, the spotlight once again moved to a different place, and that man was similarly beheaded.

[Vesta! You, getting so carri----]

[Points deducted]

Was it an aide, the name of the man who was beheaded was called out, Although Gaharudo was cursing out, in return, the indifferent voice sounded out and another man was beheaded.

[.....]

While grinding his teeth tightly he fell silent, Gaharudo's stared into the darkness with eyes that seemed to be able to kill a person with just a glare. Towards such a Gaharudo, Cam indifferently talked anyways.

[That's right, understand that your position has reached rock bottom. Judge quickly and choose your words wisely. Right now, the lives of all the people in this hall, depends on your speech and behavior]

Simultaneously with those words, a hand extended from outside of the spotlight and placed a necklace on Gaharudo's neck before he was aware. It was a thin chain with a bright red jewel attached on the tip.

[This is the "Collar of Oath". Gaharudo, the oath which you'll pledge to from your mouth, this artifact will be holding your life as lateral. If it triggers even once, not just you, but anyone else who's connected with your soul throughout your life will die. If the oath is broken, naturally, you'll die]

The implied meaning, all humans in the room have been secured, Cam informed him that all others have been forced to wear the same artifact. Gaharudo seemed to have understood and his expression twisted as if he

was forced to chew 10,000 bitter worms and insects.

The necklace artifact called “Collar of Oath” that Cam placed onto Gaharudo’s neck, the jewel and ore it was made out of was created through Generation Magic which infused Spirit Magic into it, according to Cam’s words, it has the effect of making sure that the oath that comes out of his mouth stays carried out on a spiritual level.

Specifically, the oath that is said will be directly engraved onto their spirit, if the oath is broken or the “Collar of Oath” is removed, their spirit itself will disappear. Moreover, it even affects the next in line souls, in other words, it affects Gaharudo’s entire clan, similarly they would all die if they don’t wear the “Collar of Oath”. In short, towards every one of the Emperor’s clan, the oath from the artifact will have to be followed throughout all generations to come. (A separate artifact is needed for people who become relatives through marriage)

[An oath….you say?]

[There are 4 contents to the oath. First, the emancipation of all the existing slaves, second, a definite promise of nonaggression and nonintervention with the Sea of Trees, third, prohibiting the enthrallment and persecution of Demi-humans, fourth, make all conditions legal laws. Have you understood? If you understand, say, “I swear it here on behalf of Hoelscher”. After that it’ll activate]

[And if I don’t?]

[The Imperial house ends today, the necks of officers will continue flying until the empire straightens out the situation, afterwards, assassinations would be carried out repeatedly for a long time to come. Until we, the Haruia tribe is annihilated, the Empire’s safety in the night is long lost. Officers of the Empire when coming home will only find the heads of their wife and children]

[Don’t underestimate the Empire. Even if we die, it won’t collapse so easily. An army will definitely be led to invade and attack the Sea of Trees and this time, Fair Bergen will definitely be destroyed. You should already understand. It’s not difficult to navigate through the fog of the Sea of

Trees if a slave is used. Although combat is harder, it can easily be done through numbers, there are no problems through smashing the Sea of Trees from the edge inwards. Up until now, the reason why we haven't crushed Fair Bergen.....]

[Because it would be impossible to harvest if you crushed the field.....right?]

[So you do understand. Right now, you'll still be in time. For example, even if you borrowed that guys power, the skills to bring down the Imperial castle in such short time, and that last battle.....as expected, losing you guys would be regrettable. If you guys don't want to be slaves then I will give you preferential treatment to be under my direct command as my personal troops?]

[Out of the question. You do not deserve our trust based on your behavior of Demi-humans thus far. That's why I'll have you pledge to the "oath"]

[Then, it's war huh. I will definitely not pledge to the oath]

How about it? Gaharudo was about to say until his lips distorted, Cam was as mechanical as always.

[Is that so? .....Point's deducted, Gaharudo]

Once again, those words resounded out, what was picked out by the spotlight which poured down was.....

[Let go! Who do you think I am! This impudent bunny beast dares! I'll massacre you all! I'll kill every last one of you! One by one, I'll torture you in front of your families until you die! Even the women, until they break I-egu~e---------]

It was crowned prince Bias.

The sounds of the crowned prince's shout could be heard throughout the place.

Immediately following that, without any hesitation, a silver line fluttered and the head of the crowned prince of the Hoelscher empire was

easily flung into the air.

Author notes on the bottom that they might reconsider the oath's content

Chapter 120 : Hauria VS. Emperor -Later-

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

Just like a joke, the head of the next inline Emperor, Bias, was easily flung into the air.

[.....]

[That was the next Emperor. Your successor.....can you bear seeing that, can you bear hearing that, that was quite awful]

[.....I should have already said it. Even if we were all massacred, I won't be pledging to anything. Be crushed by the fury of the Empire]

[To have that kind of attitude even after your son's been killed. Ma~a, to begin with, he's probably never been loved by you. After all, the position of Emperor is decided through ability, that's why it's not unusual for relatives to try and murder one another]

It was exactly as Cam said, relatives could gain the position of Emperor by winning a duel. Even if the partner is killed during the duel it wouldn't be considered a crime.

Gaharudo had many concubines who gave birth besides the queen, Bias himself was a child of a concubine which managed to become Crowned Prince through showing his abilities in duels. It was befitting of their principles, the weak will follow the strong! and there you have it.

Probably because of that, Gaharudo's expression didn't change at all. Since the beginning, the standards were either weak or strong, there have been rumors that there were no love for his sons and daughters.....there didn't seem to be any hidden emotions either, so it may very well be true. Rather, the aide from a while ago was the only time he really exposed his

anger.

Gaharudo that was snorting towards Cam's words.

[If you know that it's useless now then just stop]

[There's no rush. You won't pledge no matter what? You'll continue tormenting the Demi-humans after this? You'll continue tracking down our Haruia Tribe?]

[How repetitious]

[Is that so....."Delta 1, this is Alpha 1, do it"]

---------Alpha 1, this is Delta 1. Roger

All of the sudden, Cam started saying things which Gaharudo couldn't comprehend. Though Gaharudo had a questioning expression, in the next moment, he felt and heard the roar of a huge explosion through his belly and the complexion of his face changed.

[-. What was that just now!]

[What, it's not that much of a big deal. We only blew up the barracks that were watching the slaves]

[Blew up? It can't be.....]

[Fumu, how many people were inside again.....anyways several hundreds of soldiers just died. It's all your fault, Gaharudo]

[You bastards did it!]

[Nope, it was you, Gaharudo. Your decision claimed the lives of those soldiers. And....."Delta 1, this is Alpha 1, do it"]

Once again, Cam muttered things which Gaharudo couldn't comprehend, Gaharudo immediately called out to him. It was far too bad of a joke that they could remotely detonate explosives from this location.

[Oi! Hauria~!]

However, Gaharudo's words were in vain, a second roar erupted. Not within the Imperial Castle. A large explosion occurred somewhere in the capital.

Holding back his emotions, Gaharudo asked.

[……Where was that explosion?]

[The hospital]

[Wha, damn you!]

[Be relieved. What blew up was the military's hospital. The only ones that died were soldiers and their doctors……to begin with, the public hospital, Inns, brothels, residential areas, though lots of people lost their homes and are living in temporary shelters after the Majinzoku's attack, do you have any request?]

[Don't go laying your hands on the general public! How far are you going to fall Hauria!]

[…….You guys always persecuted us Demi-humans. You've got no right to complain when the positions are turned around……"Delta, do it"]

[Wait~!]

The entire Empire persecuted the Demi-humans, at this point how is the general public not involved? Cam showed a slightly amazed voice. Then, mercilessly gave out the order.

The third explosion was heard, this time Gaharudo was grinding his teeth together as he was convinced that the publics buildings were bombed. But actually it was the drawbridge which allows entry into the Imperial castle. Since there will likely be reports coming from the capital about the explosions, the only route to enter the castle was destroyed.

In addition, Cam's words were partly a bluff, they never set any bombs in areas that weren't related to the army. The explosions weren't caused through remote methods either, a unit of Hauria's that sneaked into the castle had to manually set them off, due to this they couldn't set up bombs in many places.

[If you won't be pledging then we have no other choice. I'll have to set off every bomb we've set up in the capital, you Imperial aristocrats and leaders here will be lending a hand in it. Thousands of people will be

accompanying each other to the otherside. It's not a bad way to end huh?]

What he was saying was definitely terrorist-like. Who the heck taught him……though some glances were focused on the boy in the corner of the hall, the actual person was indifferent.

Towards the merciless demand, Gaharudo couldn't decide quickly and became silent. Though he was looking through his head for a method of breaking out of the current situation, no bright idea's came to mind. His expression was sour and breaking out in cold sweat, it showed that he was being cornered.

And despite that Cam didn't allow him any breathing room at all. Since the reply was slow he gave out orders.

["Delta, this is Alpha 1…….do-"]

[Wait~!]

Gaharudo called out in a panicking voice. And he slammed his head into the ground several times to calm himself down, looked up with a face as if giving up

[Shi----, damn it all! I get it! It's my defeat! I'll accept your demands! That's why, stop taking lives indiscriminately through explosions!]

[That's excellent. Then pledge to the oath]

Even though the demands were accepted, Cam replied indifferently. Gaharudo could only show a bitter smile. And while relaxing his shoulders, he talked to the remaining survivors within the hall.

[Ha~a, damn, I'm sorry you guys. I was done in this time. …..In the Empire strength is everything. These Usagininzoku, the Haura, showed it through "bringing down the Imperial castle". Holding the lives of people. Hence, "As the representative of Hoelscher! All Demi-human slaves shall be freed! We shall never interfere with the Sea of Trees! Now at this time, the persecution and enslavement of Demi-humans is now prohibited! Those who break these vows shall be severely punished by the Empire! They shall also be enacted as new laws in the Empire!" If you guys have complaints, come to my place! If you can beat me, you can do whatever

you want afterwards!]

If you wanted to treat Demi-humans as slaves like always, exterminate all who hold Hoescher's blood! I'll take you on! he declared. He really was a man who adhered to the principles that abilities reigned supreme. Of course this judgement does no harm to the Empire besides their loss of relations with the Demi-humans, as expected, losing in a direct battle had quite a huge impact.

[Fumu, you've finally answered correctly]

Along with those words, spotlights showed down onto everyone in the Emperor's clan. The still young and oldest grandchildren who should not have been at the hall had a necklace with a bright red stone on their necks.

[If you don't want the Hoelscher blood to be exterminated, don't forget the oath]

[I know]

[The content of the oath will be made public tomorrow, at the very least liberate all the slaves in the capital by the end of tomorrow]

[By tomorrow? Just how many slaves do you think there are in the Empire……]

[Do it]

[You dirty bastard! I just have to do it right, I'll do it!]

[Free the slaves and send them directly to the Sea of Trees. Gaharudo. You must accompany them to Fair Bergen. And then repeat the oath in front of the elders]

[Alone? Wouldn't I normally be killed?]

[We'll return you back safely. If you died, various problems would arise?]

[Haa~, I got it. I've had a bad feeling ever since you guys broke out of prison. To think that we'd be pushed this far. ……Na~a, do you have a grudge against me or the Empire, Hajime Nagumo?]

Gaharudo glared at Hajime through the darkness.

However there was no answer from Hajime. While holding Ririana by the neck like a kitten, he was leaning against the wall and yawning. Right now was the Haruia tribe's time to take the leading role. That's why, he seemed to take on the stance "I'm only a spectator in this affair".

There weren't any lights, even though Gaharudo couldn't see his appearance, he at least figured that Hajime had no intentions of answering. Gaharudo grandly clicked his tongue.

[Gaharudo, as a warning. We definitely obtained some help from our benefactor who changed us. However, that power had already became ours exclusively. If we wanted to, we could easily search for information and invade the castle at any time. It's easy to scratch your neck when sleeping. If you don't make the laws, even without the power of our benefactor our blades could easily cut your neck]

[Exclusive use. I'm quite jealous. To be able to use artifacts even though Demi-humans have no magical powers……]

Gaharudo's crushed and sour expressions weren't hard to believe. Because it was impossible for the Demi-humans to stand up against another race without magic, however with the use of artifacts that fact was easily destroyed.

However, it isn't enough to just say stop it, at best they could only curse out at them. [Jeez, what else could I do!], Gaharudo shouted his feelings towards Hajime.

His army was burning down because of the person who created an artifact which allowed him to fly in the air and travel the distance which should have taken 2 months into just a day and a half, if anyone were to be armed with artifacts of that stature then the Hauria's claim of being able to invade anywhere and carry out assassinations held lots of credibility.

By the way, what was used this time around was the "Spider-typed Golem Scout", "Improved Telepathy Stone", and the "Gate Key".

The “Spider-type Golem Scout” was the spider that saved Ririana. It was approximately 5 centimeters in length, can go anywhere through remote control with “Transmuting” and “Thread”, the images are sent to the “Crystal Display” through the “Distance Transmitting Stone”, and it can sense magic traps just like the magic eye. It also has paralysis and sleeping poison in its feet, even poison which makes it so that the little sonny doesn’t get up.

After Hajime entered the castle, he scattered and installed countless spider-typed golems everywhere. The reason why Hajime was seemingly distracted while in the castle was because the majority of his concentration was used to operate the golems. It was only a coincidence that he saw and helped Ririana while moving towards an installation point.

And the images that the countless spider-typed surveillance cameras that were set up were being transmitted back to the crystal displays installed at Headquarters, each Hauria force had an operator who communicated through the “Improved Telepathy Stone”, which enabled efficient and precise suppression.

The “Improved Telepathy Stone” was the single and most useful artifact to use against Gaharudo.

The principle was this. Ore’s with the property of “High-Speed Magic Recovery” was created through Creation Magic and added into the magical power tanks which caused them to auto regen, it always added fuel back into it as “Magic Radiation” was being emitted.

And the magic formation needed to activate it was a kind of sliding switch which was placed on it to allow it to smoothly activate on and off. Furthermore, there was a function which responded to the blood and status plate, meaning only the blood of the user would be accepted.

As a result, the Hauria forces were able to cooperate elaborately with Headquarters which was stationed outside of the capital.

Since they can’t actually operate the golems, without Hajime they’d have to manually place the spider-typed surveillance cameras. For that

purpose, they infiltrated into the castle and installed the new hidden camera's for the Haruia. Because the golems were unnecessarily complex, they were made to be hard to spot.

Moreover, the key-typed artifact "Gate Key" held a similar principle, because Hajime set up and concealed the keyhole-typed artifact "Gate Hall" in places, the Hauria are able to invade the castle anytime through opening the gate.

Really, from the Empire's view, [What else could I do!], was definitely the right state.

To begin with, the magic traps are difficult to disarm without being able to directly manipulate magical power, so the fact is, another invasion would probably never be as smooth as this one.

Hajime and them purposely used Kouki to enter the castle, besides installing the spider-typed golem scouts, they were also to disarm traps that the golems discovered. Hajime and Shia in particular, Yue and Shia had to use the "Presence Severing Stone" to easily hide their presence, Kaori also acted, the magic traps were disarmed without notice before the party began.

For now, though there were artifacts devised to disarm magic traps, Fairglass (a goggle-typed artifact which could detect magic traps) was distributed to the Hauria, however this time they had no time for that. That's why although they wouldn't be able to disarm the traps, they could evade them instead.

[Don't worry about it, Gaharudo. The artifacts only belong to the Haruia and no other Demi-humans. Now that you've swore to the oath, it wouldn't do for us to get full of ourselves and attack the Empire. If that happens, we Hauria will wield our blades against the foolish people of Fair Bergen]

Towards those words, Gaharudo guessed that the Hauria were independent from Fair Bergen, however they single-mindedly interfered in order to save their fellow Demi-humans (although it was actually only for the Usagininzoku).

[Is that so. I get the idea now. That's why, release us already. An unreasonable request was made to be done by tomorrow. If I don't act now I probably wouldn't be able to make it on time]

[……That's good. We Hauria will always be watching you guys. Don't even think about forgetting it in your dreams either]

Towards those last words, the spotlights disappeared and silence surrounded the hall. At the same time that his presence perception informed him that the Hauria were withdrawing, Hajime received a transmission.

----Boss. This is Alpha 1. All troops have withdrawn. For all the help, we cannot thank you enough

----It was for Shia's sake. Don't mind it. Besides, everythings not over yet. Stay cautious. Or rather, what's up ahead is the true battle. There's no guarantee that there wouldn't be an idiot who'll think "Eliminate the Emperor's clan".

----I'll take it to heart, boss. Since the beginning, we've been resoluted and prepared to fight. This path, is the path that the new Hauria tribe has decided to walk down.

Towards Cam's words filled with resolution and drive, Hajime's lips raised up. And he gave them a pure praise.

----Is that so. If you're resolute then there's nothing else for it. To all Hauria tribesmen. You were superb!

Towards the boss who they loved, respected and led them, all Hauria's Usamimis extended straight up! and after a beat passed by.

In the next moment through the telepathy stone, a grand shout erupted.

----Oo~OOOOOOOOOO!!!!

That was the cry of victory. For hundreds of years, they were the losers of losers who continued suffering bitter experiences, it was the cry of delight after finally bringing down a huge enemy for the first time.

Being completely honest, what lays ahead is a sight where it's

prohibited to enslave and persecute Demi-humans, prohibited to interfere with the Sea of Trees, and Demi-humans are protected. Exactly as Hajime said, people who desired Demi-humans as slaves would come and try to eradicate the Emperor's clan, there's even a possibility that there's a hole in the oath which the Empire may use to oppress the Demi-humans again.

That's exactly why, it was appropriate to say that the Hauria's battle starts now.

At the very least, the oath was imposed, by now, if the Empire invades the Sea of Trees, the Hauria wouldn't be able to do anything. With this earned time, the Hauria can save and gather power and numbers, and if necessary acquire high level techniques (Assassination) and guerrilla tactics. That way, even if the Empire is prepared to overcome the Oath, they won't get what they want so easily.

Right, the point of the strategy right now was to make the people at the top of the Empire wear collars and buy time to allow the Hauria to gather strength to be able to withstand the Empire. As such, certainly, the victor of this fight was unmistakably the Hauria Usagininzoku from the weakest Demi-human species.

[Damn, those guys, I shouldn't have left them unattended. .....Someone, the lights....a~a, that's right is anyone there.....tte, kora~a! Hajime Nagumo! You bastard, how long do you plan on pretending! At any rate, you're uninjured! Do something about this situation!]

Hajime narrowed his eyes as the Hauria's shout of joy was being communicated, at the same time Shia was embracing and rubbing up on Hajime because of the strategies success, from the other side (even in the darkness Hajime could see Gaharudo's appearance rolling around) of the darkness, and began to hear Gaharudo's angry voice.

By the way, the moment that he was embraced by Shia, Ririana who he was holding onto was cast aside without hesitation. Towards the sudden attack which caused the death of her fiance, Ririana could only be stunned, after being treated so by Hajime, with tears in her eyes, [Even

though, I'm a Princess~!], while muttering about her constant grief, she crumbled onto the ground like a woman who was deserted by her lover.

[alright, I hear you……]

While embracing Shia with one hand, he took out an ore from the "Treasure Warehouse" which flew up towards the ceiling and emitted light. The light stone that floated towards the ceiling in the darkness caused the hall to brighten up just like daytime when they were brought to the hall.

The party hall became completely visible, "horrifying" was the perfect word for it. There were huge quantities of blood splattered everywhere and countless heads on the ground. Besides the heads on the ground which didn't have time to say goodbyes, everyone else seemed to be alright, though they were all groaning and crawling on the floor with their tendons in their hands and feet cut.

There were lots of mademoiselles who had toilet accidents due to the fear and pain. The moment when the hall was lit up and the disastrous scene was seen, many lost their consciousness, in a certain sense it was good fortune.

Though some of the courageous mademoiselles were just barely conscious, the moment they saw Shia's Usamimis, they gave out screams and fainted as the whites in their eyes showed. Even the men who didn't fear much was frightened when they saw Shia.

It appears that the fear of the Hauria tribe was deeply carved into them.

Within that, Hajime's group and the Hero's group was clearly completely unhurt. The people who were fighting until they end were giving them stares full of hatred. It appears that they completely believed that it was a conspiracy.

[Oi, kora, Hajime Nagumo. Quit flirting already and help out. What kind of nerves do you have to be able to admire a woman in this situation, and on top of that an Usagininzoku woman at that]

[Nah, look, Shia's a weak rabbit after all, the raid from earlier

frightened her. She's so pitiful. Those guys were truly fearsome people. All I could do was protect myself]

While saying those foolish things, Hajime was shivering unnaturally.

Veins appeared on Gaharudo's forehead. Even the people whose tongues were cut to seal off there chants, while on the ground glared at them cruelly as if stating, [We'll kill you with glares!]. Kouki and them who had strong nerves even trembled from the gazes.

[How impudent.....in any case, it doesn't change the fact that you're unhurt. If you hold no malice against the Empire then, nurse us, being needed by people is good isn't it*I think this line means this, 人を呼ぶなりしてくれてもいいんじゃねぇか*?]

[However about that, your subordinates are giving out blood thirst as if saying that the instant they're healed they'll attack us.....In that case, is it alright if I just finish them off?]

[There's no way that's alright! Oi, you guys! Don't ever lay your hands on that monster over there! Even if he's just a damn cheeky brat whos always being surrounded by great women and surely started a conspiracy with the Haruia tribe, don't you dare go waste your lives!]

The surviving subordinate's eyes distort due to their masters command for them to stay alive with regret. Hajime saw their eyes distorting.

[Look, even if I want to kill you guys, there's no one here stupid enough to willingly jump into a monster's jaws. I won't have it. If we don't get started soon some people are going to bleed out. I'm begging you, Hajime Nagumo]

[Ma~a, I don't particularly mind if you guys won't be coming at me. I'm relying on you, Kaori]

[Un~, leave it to me....."Sacred Text"!]

Without chanting. Without magic formations. the wave of first-class recovery magic shined immediately after calling out the magic name and rippled throughout the entire party hall. With that the wounded people were healed up instantly.

[Even recovery skills are monster class. ……I can't take this*I think? やってられねぇな*]

Gaharudo complained with a tired expression after he noticed that Kaori's recovery magic wasn't normal. Gaharudo's subordinates were dumbfounded as well to be completely healed in an instant. To be able to immediately cast first-class magic was impossible for the general people so it was natural.

Disregarding the mademoiselles who fainted and didn't get back up, those who could fight immediately gathered around Gaharudo and they looked towards Hajime with stern and cautioned expressions.

[I've already said it, give it up already. If you release blood lust like awhile ago and cause a counterattack we'd all get completely annihilated]

[But your Majesty! These guys clearly guided them in!]

[That's right! Even the Crowned Prince……we can't just leave them alone!]

[At this rate the Empire's pride will fall to the ground!]

Gaharudo's troublesome subordinates all speak out in sequence.

Even though they felt that Kaori's recovery magic wasn't normal, they had not witnessed Hajime's powers with their own eyes. Moreover, some of them previously saw Kouki and the Emperor's fight at the Kingdom, because of this they "alternatively" used it as reference.

Above that, the damage that the Hauria caused was massive. After all, they placed a "Curse" on the present Emperor and his clan, although that was largely the reason, it was also because the next-in-term Emperor was beheaded. They couldn't back down easily.

Towards the subordinates rage, Gaharudo sighed out while gaining drive. For them who groaned and staggered, Gaharudo's voice filled with dignity turned towards the people within the hall.

[Quit making so much noise! I believe I've already said, don't go dying pointlessly. Got it, that white haired eyepatch wearing fellow is a true

flesh and blood monster. Even if we brought out an entire army, he alone would annihilate it, that's who we're facing. ……They're strong, don't even step on their shadows. I'm not saying we have to follow what that guy says but, as people who adhere to the principle that abilities reign supreme, at least have the ability to judge the opponents strength!]

With an angry and shaking voice, the subordinates and even the aristocrats stiffen up.

[It goes the same for the Hauria tribe. Those guys who should have had the weakest power came and challenged the entire Empire. The reason why we were done in was because we were stupid and weak? I don't intend to leave things off like this, those guys also probably think the same……but first admit it. We lost. The losers follow the victor. That is the Empire's rule! Even still, if you have a complaint then let me hear it! Convince me through power, make me follow you! Just like those guys did!]

Gaharudo's angry voice echoed throughout the party hall. Those who couldn't stand looked towards him, after the subordinates around Gaharudo hesitated slightly, they hung their heads down before him. Deep within themselves they knew, the one who fought until the final moment was Gaharudo. Gaharudo's words, more than anything was heavy.

[Un, with this it's case closed]

Towards Hajime's satisfied words, everyone turned to look at Hajime with hatred. Those gazes spoke more than words. That is, [You're one to talk! You God of Plague!].

~~~~~~

Even while hiding their hostility against Hajime and them, the surviving Empire soldiers had to face the reality that they were unable to meaninglessly throw away their lives, Little by little they regain their composure because of Gaharudo.

Although the drawbridge was destroyed empire soldiers began to arrive at the castle and the silent party hall began to become noisy once again,
~~~~~~

control was quickly brought back from the confusing situation.

Leaders of the survivors were gathered, despite being in the middle of night they were holding an emergency meeting to adhere the oaths. Mid-way in, one of the leaders who wasn't at the party hall laughed at the foolish contents of the oath……

That moment, the lights in the conference room instantaneously died out, when the lights came back on the horror of a subordinate's head laying on the table appeared, it was the subordinate of the man who was opposing them. The man could do nothing but nod away while turning pale. The other leaders were reminded of the party and began to tremble. The later talks seemed to have been settled quickly.

While compiling damage reports from every place, the laws for the Demi-humans were rapidly made (the draft prepared by the Hauria). At this point, Gaharudo found out that the Hauria had not laid their hands on the general public.

However, from the fact that none of the general facilities were reported to have been destroyed through explosions, he received a message that it was possible to blow them up at anytime and began to worry substantially because of all the possible bombs planted in their facilities.

And within the middle of the night, soldiers were woken up because of the explosions, their individually owned slaves were guided to the countless temporarily raised tents on the open plot of land from the previous demon turmoil. They immediately began to retrieve the slaves in the next building where slaves were being held.

Naturally, fierce resistance was bound to happen. Just when they were woken up in the middle of night, the owned slaves were being forcefully seized. In particular, the slave association was showing symptoms of becoming bankrupted. Financial compensation was promised to be given at a later time, even though it was a royal command by the Emperor, they weren't able to easily consent to it.

Nevertheless, it was a direct order from the country, they had no choice but to compromise…..stretching time in between then and now, there

were many who folded and whined, roughly all of those people were found beheaded in the morning.

And when the afternoon of the next day came to pass, an abnormal situation with Demi-humans gathered in one place in the capital caused citizens to gather and the announcement from the Empire was announced. About the consent of the oath and the additional laws that were established.

Towards the bluntly reported announcement, the citizens became dumbfounded. That was to be expected. Their familiar and convenient tools were suddenly taken away from them. Moreover, it was forbidden to capture them in the future. The situation was honestly one where they couldn't comprehend.

Eventually, the obvious and natural complaints began to flow out and it quickly became a large and strong opposition. It was about to become a riot, the Empire soldiers began defending the Demi-human slaves from the people in cold sweat, but it became quiet after the announcement made with exquisite timing.

In other words,

[All actions towards Demi-humans was because an "Oracle" from "Ehto-sama"!]

Furthermore, with the appearance of Kaori who fluttered her silver wings and was shining as she descended down from the sky, Kouki showed the light and appearance of his sacred sword. As a result, the announcement held credibility.

Towards the divine appearance (being produced by Hajime's artifacts) the citizens all got down on one knee and prayed.

Actually, Kaori was trying hard not to run away as she was blushing in shame, if Kaori felt like it, the silver feathers that were being worshiped by the citizens, [Thank you~], could easily be turned into weapons that decomposed everything, Gaharudo who was at wits end on how to explain the laws and emancipation of slaves was simply proposed, [wouldn't it be alright if we just use Ehto?], Hajime who was in high spirits was

chuckling to himself about how amusing it was that the citizens were so serious……Everyone could surely faint peacefully together.

Obtaining and holding onto “God’s Apostle’s feathers”, reluctantly the slave owners backed down as there was also compensation from the country and the majority of citizens were cheerful. In front of their eyes, several thousands of slave’s shackles were being removed by the soldiers one after the other.

The Demi-humans seemed to have been stunned but accepted it with silence. Being completely honest they weren’t sure about what was happening at the moment. Even if they understood they likely wouldn’t be able to believe it.

Before long, with some time the slave’s shackles were all removed and Kouki who showed natural charisma led the Demi-humans outside of the capital. Along with him was also obviously Gaharudo as well as Hajime and them.

The Demi-humans were stunned as they left the capital, amplifying her voice with physical reinforcement Shia shouted out, [You guys are free~! Return to your homes~!], they finally seemed to realize that they were “liberated” and they all shouted out in joy all at once which caused the ground to shake.

Under the cheerful blue sky, while at the Empire’s outer walls, several thousands of Demi-humans headed towards home. Towards the impossible illusion, tears were falling down and Demi-humans were joyfully patting eachothers shoulders.

Within those, there were many who received cruel physical and mental wounds as well, but they were healed through Reproduction Magic and Spirit Magic. Because even Yue couldn’t accurately erase their memories enmass, she compromised that it was necessary for them to be surrounded by family and friends in the long-term.

There were also many Demi-humans that were transported to many different towns, Hajime and them couldn’t be responsible to heal them. They as well, after returning to the Sea of Trees, have no choice but to

allow their minds to be supported by the people around them.

Even still, they'll be able to once again live in their hometown, they can meet their important people that they were separated from once again.....it was surely suitable to call this event a "Miracle".

Hajime who was looking at the Demi-humans shouting in joy, began thinking about his family in Japan, [Someday I too will.....], he muttered inside himself and quietly clenched Yue's hand who snuggled up closely. The cute lover was as if saying, [It's alright], gently returned strength into Hajime's hand.

Arc VI

Chapter 122 : Character Introduction

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Apologies, no story this chapter. By popular request.

Incomplete, may be missing characters. Status may be off.

(TN: also added some extra info from previous chapters, uncertain translations marked with [?])

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Status Plates

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Nagumo Hajime (南雲ハジメ) Strength 10950 > 12150

17 yo M Vitality 13190 > 14250

Transmuter (錬成師) Resist 10670 > 11870

Lv ??? > ??? Agility 13450 > 14550

ch 25 > 122 Magic 14780 > 15980

Adventurer Rank: Gold Magic Resist 14780 > 15980

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Hero of the series. Originally a gentle, quiet otaku boy, but

was labelled incompetant -> bullied -> fell into the abyss ->

left arm was eaten -> became OP -> mindset changed: now talks

with guns-first. Harem happened (though he treats Yue alone as special). Seeks to conquer the Great Dungeons so he can return home to Japan. (Author Note: stats are temporary, don't worry too much about it)

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錬成 Transmutation

[+鉱物系鑑定] + Mineral Appraisal

[+精密錬成] + Precision Transmutation

[+鉱物系探査] + Mineral Enquiry

[+鉱物分離] + Mineral Separation

[+鉱物融合] + Mineral Fusion

[+複製錬成] + Replication Transmutation

[+圧縮錬成] + Compression Transmutation

[+高速錬成] + High-speed Transmutation

[+自動錬成] + Automatic Transmutation

[+イメージ補強力上昇] + Image Reinforcement Power Increase

[+消費魔力減少] + Magic Consumption Reduction

[+鉱物分解] + Mineral Decomposition

魔力操作 Magic Manipulation

[+魔力放射] + Magic Emission

[+魔力圧縮] + Magic Compression

[+遠隔操作] + Remote Control

胃酸強化 Stomach Acid Strengthening (Iron Stomach)

纏雷 Lightning Armor (Lightning Clad)

[+雷耐性] + Lightning Resistance

[+出力増大] + Output Increase

天歩 Sky Walk (Divine Step)

[+空力] + Void Grip (Air Walk/Aerodynamic)

[+縮地] + Shukuchi (Instant Movement/Flicker/Ground Shrink)

[+豪脚] + Grand Legs

[+瞬光] + Lightspeed

風爪 Wind Claw (Air Claw)

[+三爪] + Triple Claws

[+飛爪] + Flying Claws

夜目 Night Vision

遠見 Far Vision

気配感知 Perception

[+特定感知] + Specific Perception

魔力感知 Magic Perception

[+特定感知] + Specific Perception

熱源感知 Heat Perception

[+特定感知] + Specific Perception

気配遮断 Hide Presence (Sign Interception)

[+幻踏] + Phantom Dance (Phantom Step)

毒耐性 Poison Resistance

麻痺耐性 Paralysis Resistance

石化耐性 Petrification Resistance

恐慌耐性 Panic Resistance

全属性耐性 All Elements Resistance

先読 Foresight

金剛 Vajra (Indestructible)

[+部分強化] + Specific Reinforcement

[+集中強化] + Concentrated Reinforcement

[+付与強化] + Grant Reinforcement

豪腕 Grand Arm

威圧 Coercion (Pressure/Intimidation)

念話 Telepathy

追跡 Tracking

高速魔力回復 High-speed Magic Recovery

[+魔素集束] + Mana Focusing

魔力変換 Magic Conversion

[+体力変換] + Vitality Conversion

[+治癒力変換] + Healing Conversion

[+衝撃変換] + Impact Conversion

限界突破 Limit Break (x3 all stats buff)

生成魔法 Creation Magic

重力魔法 Gravity Magic

空間魔法 Space Magic

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

言語理解 Language Comprehension

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* Weapon names (German/German pronounciation):

ドンナー・シュラーク Donner & Schlag ("Thunder & Shock"), (rail)revolvers

シュラーゲン Schlagen ("Knockout"), anti-materiel (rail)rifle

メツェライ Metzelei ("Slaughter"), gatling (rail)gun

オルカン Orkan ("Hurricane"), rocket & missile launcher

ヒュペリオン Hyperion ("Sun God"), laser satellite

フェルニル Ferner ("Further"), airship

* Automatic Transmutation:
Automatically transmutes materials in a magic formation until the magic in the formation is exhausted.

* Mineral Decomposition:
By carefully permeating magic, mineral bonds can be unbound. It's possible to decompose up to the smallest unit, but is time consuming. Unusable in combat. Skill used to process sand-like minerals.

* Triple Claws:
Whereas the old bear claw would fire one, this fires three identical wind blades.

* Flying Claws:
Wind blades now fly.

Yue Strength 120 > 220
323 yo F Vitality 300 > 450
Sorceress (神子) Resist 60 > 100

Lv 75 > 82 Agility 120 > 220

ch 67 > 122 Magic 6980 > 9180

Adventurer Rank: Gold Magic Resist 7120 > 9320

Main heroine of the series. Imprisoned in the abyss, was saved by Hajime. Most skilled magic user in this world. Also Hajime's most skilled ero-opponent. For the time being, classed as a Kuudere. Kuudere + bewitching + vampire princess + loli attributes.

自動再生 Auto Regeneration

[+**痛覚操作**] + Pain Control

[+**再生操作**] + Regeneration Control

全属性適性 All Elements Aptitude

複合魔法 Compound Magic

魔力操作 Magic Manipulation

[+**魔力放射**] + Magic Emission

[+**魔力圧縮**] + Magic Compression

[+**遠隔操作**] + Remote Control

[+**効率上昇**] + Increased Efficiency

[+**魔素吸収**] + Mana Absorption

[+**身体強化**] + Body Strengthening

想像構成 Imagination Composition

[+**イメージ補強力上昇**] + Image Reinforcement Power Up

[+**複数同時構成**] + Multiple Simultaneous Composition

[+**遅延発動**] + Delayed Invocation

血力変換 Blood Conversion

[+**身体強化**] + Body Strengthening

[+**魔力変換**] + Magic Conversion

[+**体力変換**] + Vitality Conversion

[+**血盟契 約**] + Blood Oath Contract

高速魔力回復 High-speed Magic Recovery

生成魔法 Creation Magic

重力魔法 Gravity Magic

空間魔法 Space Magic

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

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* Blood Oath Contract: (ch.67)
Drastic efficiency increase when blood is drained from a contracted person (ie: Hajime).

* Imagination Composition: (ch.67)
Magic formations can be completed with only a mental image (ie: chantless/formationless magic).

* Regeneration Control:
Can freely control regeneration ability.

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Shia Houria Strength　60 >　100

16 yo F Vitality　80 >　120

Diviner (占術師) Resist　60 >　100

Lv 40 > 48 Agility　85 >　130

ch 67 > 122 Magic 3020 > 3800

Adventurer Rank: Gold Magic Resist 3180 > 4000

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Heroine. Bunny Girl. Perky, energetic, frivolous. But has recently turned into a splendid person. Demi-humans are unable to use magic, but Shia is able to directly manipulate magic despite that. Has no magical aptitude, but can use body strengthening to a degree that makes her a bugged character. Disappointing beauty + rabbit + desu + naive attributes.

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未来視 Future Sight

[+自動発動] + Automatic Invocation

[+仮定未来] + Future Prediction

[+天啓視] + Divine Revelation Sight

魔力操作 Magic Manipulation

[+身体強化] + Body Strengthening

[+部分強化] + Specific Strengthening

[+変換効率上昇Ⅲ] + Conversion Efficiency Up III

[+集中強化] + Concentration Strengthening

重力魔法 Gravity Magic

空間魔法 Space Magic

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

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* Weapon names (German/German pronounciation):

ドリュッケン Drücken ("Press"), sledgehammer + shotgun

* Divine Revelation Sight:

Can glimpse a few seconds ahead into the future. Unlike Future Prediction it doesn't consume magic so it can be continuously active.

* Conversion Efficiency Up III:

Converts magic to physical stats (Str/Vit/Res/Agi) at a 1:3 ratio (ie: 3800 = +11400).

Tio Kurarusu Strength 770 > 880 [+Dragon Form 4620 > 8800]

563 yo F Vitality 1100 > 1250 [+Dragon Form 6600 > 12500]

Guardian (守護者) Resist 1100 > 1250 [+Dragon Form 6600 > 12500]

Lv 89 > 93 Agility 580 > 700 [+Dragon Form 3480 > 7000]

ch 67 > 122 Magic 4590 > 4990

Adventurer Rank: Gold Magic Resist 4220 > 4620

Pervert. Hajime opened a new door for her when he used his Pile Bunker on her weak spot. A prudent, intellectual, mature spirit... or should have been. Heroine. no ja + kimono + watermelons + shapeshifter attributes.

竜化 Dragon Form

[+**竜鱗硬化**] + Dragonscale Hardening

[+**魔力効率上昇**] + Magic Efficiency Up

[+**身体能力上昇Ⅱ**] + Body Ability Up II

[+**咆哮**] + Roar

[+**風纏**] + Wind Armor (Wind Clad)

[+**痛覚変換Ⅱ**] + Pain Control II

魔力操作 Magic Manipulation

[+**魔力放射**] + Magic Emission

[+**魔力圧縮**] + Magic Compression

[+**遠隔操作**] + Remote Control

火属性適性 Fire Element Aptitude

[+**魔力消費減少**] + Mana Consumption Reduction

[+**効果上昇**] + Effect Up

[+**持続時間上昇**] + Duration Up

風属性適性 Wind Element Aptitude

[+**魔力消費減少**] + Mana Consumption Reduction

[+**効果上昇**] + Effect Up

[+**持続時間上昇**] + Duration Up

[+**雷属性**] + Lightning Element

複合魔法 Compound Magic

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

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* Dragonscale Hardening: (ch.67)

Hardness can be increased by expending magic. Can also increase Dragon Form's base stats and resistances.

* Pain Control II:

High level ability to freely convert pain into energy, increasing all stats. In addition it is possible to store the converted energy. However the energy can only be stored when still feeling lingering pain.

* Lightning Element:

Lightning magic is classified as higher ranked wind magic, this allows lightning magic to be used at the same level as wind magic.

Shirasaki Kaori (白崎香織) Strength 280 > 1200

17 yo F Vitality 460 > 1200

Healer (治癒師) Resist 360 > 1200

Lv 72 > 10 Agility 380 > 1200

ch 71 > 122 Magic 1380 > 1200

Magic Resist 1380 > 1200

Heroine. An unfortunate, regular schoolgirl that had her love interest, Hajime, stolen from her... or so it seems. Feelings of love for Hajime sprouted during her second year of middle school. Became consciously aware of her feelings after Hajime fell into the abyss. When they reunited, forcibly joined the party when she became aware of Yue stealing Hajime away. Currently possessing the body of the Apostle of God, Nointo. Classmate + airhead + Stand (JoJo reference to her Hannya mask) + pitiable attributes.

回復魔法 Recovery Magic

[+**回復効果上昇**] + Effect Up

[+**回復速度上昇**] + Recovery Speed Up

[+**イメージ補強力上昇**] + Image Reinforcement Power Up

[+**浸透看破**] + Osmosis Penetration [?]

[+**範囲回復効果上昇**] + Effect Range Up

[+**遠隔回復効果上昇**] + Remote Recovery Effect Up

[+**状態異常 回復効果上昇**] + Abnormal Status Recovery Effect Up

[+**消費魔力減少**] + Magic Consuption Down

[+**魔力効率上昇**] + Magic Efficiency Up

[+**連続発動**] + Consecutive Invocation

[+**複数同時発動**] + Multiple Invocation

[+**遅延発動**] + Delayed Invocation

[+付加発動] + Addition Invocation

光属性適性 Light Element Aptitude

[+発動速度上昇] + Movement Speed Up

[+効果上昇] + Effect Up

[+持続時間上昇] + Duration Up

[+連続発動] + Consecutive Invocation

[+複数同時発動] + Multiple Invocation

[+遅延発動] + Delayed Invocation

高速魔力回復 High-speed Magic Recovery

[+瞑想] + Meditation

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

言語理解 Language Comprehension

双大剣術 Greatsword Dual-wielding Proficiency

分解能力 Disintegration Ability (Decomposition Ability)

全属性適性 All Elements Aptitude

複合魔法 Compound Magic

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* The broken greatswords and wargear were replaced by Hajime.

* Nointo's enchantment, infinite magic supply and pseudo-Limit Break are disabled.

* Original Apostle's stats are all 12000. Kaori doesn't have full control of the body yet.

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Amanokawa Kouki * Strength 880 > 1020

17 yo M Vitality 880 > 1020

Hero (勇者) Resist 880 > 1020

Lv 72 > 83 Agility 880 > 1020

ch 71 > 122 Magic 880 > 1020

 Magic Resist 880 > 1020

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(*天之河光輝) Hero (lol). A bundle of good and justice. However since he never thinks he's wrong, he has a bad habit of interpreting adverse situations to his own convenience. Kaori, Shizuku and Ryutaro are childhood friends.

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全属性適正 All Elements Aptitude

[+光属性効果上昇] + Light Element Effect Up

[+発動速度上昇] + Movement Speed Up

全属性耐性 All Elements Resistance

[+光属性効果上昇] + Light Element Effect Up

物理耐性 Physical Resistance

[+治癒力上昇] + Recovery Power Up

[+衝撃緩和] + Impact Allevation

複合魔法 Compound Magic

剣術 Sword Proficiency

[+無念無想] + Clear Mind

剛力 Herculean Strength

縮地 Shukuchi (Instant Movement/Flicker/Ground Shrink)

[+爆縮地] + Explosive Shukuchi

先読 Foresight

高速魔力回復 High-speed Magic Recovery

気配感知 Perception

魔力感知 Magic Perception

限界突破 Limit Break (x3 all stats buff)

[+覇潰] + Supreme Destruction (x5 all stats buff)

言語理解 Language Comprehension

Yaegashi Shizuku * Strength 450 > 650

17 yo F Vitality 560 > 760

Swordswoman (剣士) Resist 320 > 520

Lv 72 > 83 Agility 1110 > 1480

ch 71 > 122 Magic 380 > 580

Magic Resist 380 > 580

(*八重樫雫) I wonder if she's a heroine... Best friend of Kaori.

Kouki and Ryutaro's childhood friend. Her home is a kendo dojo.

Primary feature of this dignified girl is her ponytail. Has an

excellent grasp of human subtleties and relationships, her innate personality won't let her ignore trouble around her giving her a lot of hardships [?]. Recently though she's been depending too much on someone else...

剣術 Sword Skill

[+斬撃速度上昇] + Slashing Speed Up

[+抜刀速度上昇] + Drawing Sword Velocity Up

[+無拍子] + Mubyoushi

縮地 Shukuchi (Instant Movement/Flicker/Ground Shrink)

[+爆縮地] + Explosive Shukuchi

[+重縮地] + Heavy Shukuchi [?]

[+震脚] + Seismic Leg

[+無拍子] + Mubyoushi

先読 Foresight

[+投影] + Projection

気配感知 Perception

隠業 Hidden Action

[+幻撃] + Phantom Strike

言語理解 Language Comprehension

Sakagami Ryuutarou * Strength 820 > 980

17 yo M Vitality 820 > 980

Brawler (拳士) Resist 680 > 790

Lv 72 > 83 Agility 550 > 650

ch 71 > 122 Magic 280 > 350

 Magic Resist 280 > 350

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(*坂上龍太郎) Muscle brain.

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格闘術 Martial Arts

[+身体強化] + Body Strengthening

[+部分強化] + Specific Strengthening

[+集中強化] + Concentrated Strengthening

[+浸透破壊] + Penetration Destruction

縮地 Shukuchi (Instant Movement/Flicker/Ground Shrink)

[+爆縮地] + Explosive Shukuchi

物理耐性 Physical Resistance

[+金剛] + Vajra (Indestructible)

全属性耐性 All Elements Resistance

言語理解 Language Comprehension

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Taniguchi Suzu (谷口鈴) Strength 350

17 yo F Vitality 450

Barrier Mage (結界師) Resist　450

Lv　83 Agility　380

ch 122 Magic　820

Magic Resist　580

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Chimikko. Mood maker of the class. Unsung hero of the Hero party. A dirty old man at heart.

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結界術適性 Barrier Magic Aptitude

[+魔力効率上昇] + Mana Efficiency Up

[+発動速度上昇] + High-speed Invocation Up

[+遠隔操作] + Remote Control

[+連続発動] + Continuous Activation

光属性適性 Light Element Aptitude

[+障壁適性連動] + Barrier Aptitude Link

言語理解 Language Comprehension

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Supporting Characters

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Myu 4 yo F

Little girl of the Sea-race. Was saved by Hajime from an underground

Führen slave auction.

Her father died before she was born, so she comes to love the strong and kind Hajime as her

new father. She's so important to him that Hajime made a new oath. She likes ending her

sentences in "nano". With the exception of Yue, she is the only person Hajime is completely

weak against.

Remia 24 yo F

Myu's mother. A gentle beauty. An undine widow whose soothes people with her "ara ara, ufufu".

Hajime often cannot tell whether she is serious or joking. Restrains Hajime's party with her

mature woman charm.

Classmates

Hatayama Aiko (畑山愛子) 25 yo F, Farmer (作農師)

Social Studies teacher. Has a reverse harem of Temple Knights (though her head is full of

concern for her students so she doesn't notice).

Nakamura Eri (中村恵里) 17 yo F, Necromancer (降霊術師)

Betrayed her classmates to the demons. Used her original darkness magic "Soul Bind" to

manipulate countless numbers of dead puppet soldiers. Valuable Bokummusume [?].

Nagayama Jugo (永山重) 17 yo M, Heavy Brawler (重格闘家)

Frontline party leader. Old man face.

Nomura Kentaro (野村健太郎) 17 yo M, Earth Mage (土術師)

Nagayama party member. Best friends with Nagayama and Endo. Likes Ayako Tsuji.

Endo Kosuke (遠藤浩介) 17 yo M, Assassin (暗殺者)

Nagayama party member. Has an extremely weak presence. Isn't noticed by labyrinth monsters

or automatic doors.

Tsuji Ayako (辻綾子) 17 yo F, Healer (治癒師)

Nagayama party member. Same class as Kaori, her healing skills are a bit more complex though.

Yoshino Mao (吉野真央) 17 yo F, Enchanter (付与術士)

Nagayama party member. Unsung hero of the party.

Hiyama Daisuke (檜山大介) 17 yo M, Light Warrior (軽戦士)

Leader of the bullies harassing Hajime. Perpetrator who dropped him into the abyss. Blackmailed

by Eri in the beginning, but later killed many of the country's knights and soldiers of his own

volition in order to obtain Kaori. He met a gruesome end when Hajime fed him alive to some

monsters after finally going to town on him.

Nakano Shinji (中野信治) 17 yo M, Water Mage (水術師)

Hiyama gang member.

Saito Yoshiki (斎藤良樹) 17 yo M, Wind Mage (風術師)

Hiyama gang member.

Kondo Reiichi (近藤礼一) 17 yo M, Spear Warrior (槍術師)

Hiyama gang member. Became prey to Eri's Soul Bind.

Aikawa Noboru (相川昇) 17 yo M, -

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Kawahara Akira (河原明) 17 yo M, -

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Tamai Atsushi (玉井淳) 17 yo M, -

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Sugawara Taeko (菅原妙子) 17 yo F, -

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Miyazaki Nana (宮崎奈々) 17 yo F, -

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Sonobe Yuka (園部優香) 17 yo F, -

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Shimizu Yukitoshi (清水幸利) 17 yo M, Dark Mage (闇術師)

Raised an army of monsters to distinguish himself in this new world. As a result he was

left on the verge of death after a demon's suprise attack, after which Hajime terminated him.

Heilig Kingdom

Elhild = S = B = Heilig

King. Killed by Eri during the Imperial City invasion.

Luluaria = S = B = Heilig

Queen. Rarely appears, but assists in the background. Has an equally weak presence like a

certain someone [?].

Randell = S = B = Heilig

Prince. 10 yo. Handsome youth with blonde hair and blue eyes. Was infatuated with Kaori, but

gave up after meeting Hajime. Currently heartbroken from losing his first love.

Liliana = S = B = Heilig

Princess. 14 yo. Talented and enormously popular within the kingdom. Has been harbouring

feelings of love ever since she was saved by Hajime, however his treatment of her hasn't

changed so recently she's a rather pitiable character.

Meld = Loggins

Knight team captain. Died by Eri's hands. Most unfortunate death.

Jose = Rancaid

Knight vice-captain of the same team. Likewise killed by Eri.

Alan = Smith

Knight background character, regularly appears [?]. Also dead.

Kuzeri = Rail

New knight team captain. A woman knight originally serving as an Imperial Guard under Liliana.

Niito = Komorudo

New knight team vice-captain. Previously the commander of the third corps.

Adventurer Guild

Ilwa = Chang

Führen branch chief. Awarded Hajime a gold rank and provides him with support. A person who

gave Hajime a lot of work (trouble).

Dot = Clowe

Ilwa's head secretary. Like Shizuku, suffers a lot of hardships.

Catherine

Former head secretary of the guild master. An old lady that personifies the cruelty of time.

Loa = Bawabisu

Horuado branch chief. Tsundere.

Barusu = Raputa

Guild master. May have spells of destruction [?].

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Ankaji Dukedom

Ranzi = Forward = Zengen

Ankaji dukedom's lord. Had a falling out with the church, (漢気溢れる) nice middle [?].

Bizu = Forward = Zengen

Ranzi's son. Attracted to Kaori. Facial expressions at the gunshot level when stared at [?].

Airi = Forward = Zengen

Bizu's sister. At 14 yo, overcame demi-human discrimination when she encountered Myu's

cuteness.

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Haltina Sea of Trees, Faea Belgaen

Alferick = Hypist

Faea Belgaen elder. Chief of the Forest-race (Elves). Longest lived and easiest to talk with.

Zeru of the Tiger-race, Mao of the Winged-race, Rua of the Fox-race, Guze of the Earth-race

(Dwarves), Jin of the Bear-race

Background character elders. Jin never fully recovered from the blow Hajime delivered to his

abdomen.

Altena = Hypist

Granddaughter of Alfrick.

Regin = Banton

Middle-aged man from the Bear-race. Once lead a raid on the Haulia to take revenge for Jin but

had the tables turned. Afterwards developed a trauma of the Haulia, pulse rate and breathing

would elevate just thinking about it.

Haulia Tribe

Cam = Haulia

Shea's father, Chief of the Haulia tribe of the Rabbit-race. Hyahhaa chief. Chuuni chief.

Currently calling himself "Shadow demon hunter of the writhing abyss, Caamubantisu Erufanraito

Roooderia Haulia."

Baru

"Barudoferudo of Certain Destruction", 11 yo. Proud of his ranged weaponry skill. Infected

with chuunibyou.

Rana

"Ranainferina the Fleeting Shadow." Probably has a job requiring speed.

Mina

"Minasuteria the Sky Splitter." Probably has an air assassination attack.

Yao

"Yaozeriasu the Phantom Warrior." Probably uses illusions to manipulate his foes.

Yoru

"Yorugandaru the Creeping Death." Probably... y'know.

Riki

"Rikiddobureiku the Light Rain." Something or other.

Io

"Iorunikusu the Lightning Blade." Something or other.

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Hoelscher Empire

Gahald = D = Hoelscher

Emperor.

Bias = D = Hoelscher

Crown Prince. Ririana's fiance. Beheaded after he raised a ruckus.

Nediru

Formerly a jailer in the imperial army. Had his nether regions crushed beyond recognition.

Master

Imperial capital (Adventurer Guild) branch bartender. Tenpure guardian [?].

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Demon-race

Furiido = Baguaa (Freed)

Red haired, dark skinned, slightly pointed ear male of the demon-race.

Mass-produces powerful

demons, possesses space magic from the Age of Gods. His white dragon minions are particularly

powerful, they plunged Hajime into a crisis with their Aurora Breath ability during an ambush.

God Faction

Nointo, Apostle of God

Soldier of God that boasts phenomenal stats. Able to fight more than evenly against Hajime in

her Limit Break state. Appears at turning points in history to enact the will of God, either to

manipulate the masses or eliminating those who are obstacles to God's plan. Hajime wonders if

there are more apostles. Probably.

Ishtar Rangobarudo

Pope of the Sacred Church. Old man. Lost cause.

David = Mark

Aiko's escort team, temple knight captain. After many troubles, became head of Aiko's reverse

harem (although it seems fruitless as Aiko doesn't pay any attention to

them).

Chase = Routine

Aiko's escort team, temple knight. Likewise reverse harem member.

Ehito, Human-race god

Aruvu, Demon-race god

Other

Motto = Yunker

A true merchant.

Sohna

Brook town, Masaka inn poster girl. Goes to great lengths to peep at Hajime's love affairs.

Her techniques are already far beyond the level of a town girl.

Christabel

Clothing store monster (drag queen). Former gold-rank adventurer. Possesses strength beyond

common sense.

Mariabelle

Clothing store monster II. Embarked on a new path after Yue's groin smash.

Fosu Seruo

Owner of the Water Fairy inn at the Lakeshore town, Ur. Serves Japanese-style cuisine.

Will Kudeta

Third son of the Count Kudeta house. Oedipus complex.

Riiman

Human-faced fish monster. Can communicate via magic. (漢気溢れる) old man [?]. At first

glance seems to be a world-travelling free spirit, but is actually a deadbeat father that

neglected his wife and children whilst playing around.

Uorupen = Stark

Heilig kingdom chief supervising transmuter. True craftsman. Will to go beyond his limits in

order to learn new techniques.

Liberators

Oscar = Orcus

Master of the Orcus Great Labyrinth (Abyss). In charge of creation magic. This unfortunate

man's corpse was planted in a corner of a crop field.

Miredi = Raisen

Master of the Raisen Great Labyrinth (Great Canyon). In charge of gravity magic. Most annoying

person in the universe. A unique personality amongst the Liberators.

Naizu = Guryuuen

Master of the Guryuuen Great Labyrinth (Great Volcano). In charge of space magic.

Meiru = Merujiine

Master of the Merujiine Great Labyrinth (Undersea Ruins). In charge of regeneration magic.

Sea-race. Contrary to appearances, is rather crude.

Rausu = Baan

Master of the Baan Great Labyrinth (God Mountain). In charge of spirit magic. Bald.

Shunee = ? (Shune ?)

Master of the Shunee Great Labyrinth (Snowfield Ice Cave). In charge

of ? magic. Dungeon

located in demon-race territory in the south.

Luluo = Haltina

Master of the Haltina Great Labyrinth (Sea of Trees). In charge of ? magic. Dungeon located in

demi-human territory in the east.

Chapter 122 : Transporting the Demi-humans

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

The wind was roaring and howling, and the ground underneath was quickly flowing backwards.

The Demi-humans that the Empire had released were wondering whether what they're currently experience was really reality or not, to confirm it, they've pinched their cheeks many times to the point of becoming teary eyed. And, they were unsettled as if declaring, I'm not waking up from my dream~, once again, they looked at the unrealistic scene. Although it's sometimes referred as, escaping from reality.

They were currently boarded on a "basket" that Hajime had installed onto the bottom of the "Flying Airship", "Feruniru", and are currently experiencing their first time traveling by air.

Feruniru was as expected, not on the scale of being able to allow thousands of Demi-humans to board, so a large basket was quickly installed. Image-wise, it looked just like an airship gondola.

Actually, the gate hall was set up for Fair Bergen and the Hauria's hidden town, although it was possible to get to the Sea of Tree's instantly after opening a gate, they daringly chose to travel by air for the sake of setting up the stage. That way, there'll be much more impact of the Demi-human's being set free by the Empire.

As it was, there was need for someone to assure the words at the open space from last time, "Releasing the Demi-humans were God's will". The spectacle of a huge flying object turning towards the skies to return home

was required to completely fool the Empire citizens.

but, as the price, Hajime who started up Feruniru was faced with a harsh burden from having so much people loaded on. While gushing out red magical power on the bench seat in the bridge, laying on his back with his legs stretched out languidly was not the embodiment of arrogance.

As expected, to pilot the ship with thousands of people boarded on, their accumulated weight which forced his magic consumption to drain out was definitely not half-assed.

However, while his magical powers were gradually drained away, with the current situation he decided to train his magical ability to efficiently operate magical power through his consciousness with much effort, however the cause of his languidity was likely not just due to the magic consumption though.

To others it would just look like someone was being lazy but, it was actually a person's effort to train whenever possible. It was really hard to tell the difference……

Yue, Shia, and Kaori were attending and beside Hajime. Though Hajime's appearance was that of a father becoming lazy while sitting on a bench as his child plays at the park on a holiday, at his right arm was Yue, on his left was Shia using it as a pillow, and Kaori who was fiddling with his hair from the back of the seat.

He was really training seriously but……there would be no rebuttals that the scene looked just like a guy with his Harem.

[Oi oi, that's quite the attitude while in front of the Emperor, eh?]

[……Nagumo-kun, although I'm only saying it…..I think you should respect yourself a bit more?]

[How enviou……I mean. Right. it's indecent]

Though he was concentrating on training to operate his magical powers efficiently, unconsciously Yue and Shia were patting his head as the voices multiplied towards Hajime.

In order to swear the oath in front of Fair Bergen's elders, Gaharudo, the Emperor of the Hoelscher Empire accompanied them, Ririana accompanied them as a member of the royal family of the same human beings to witness the oath as a princess of the Hairhi Kingdom, and the usual Shizuku. Of course, Kouki, Ryutaro, and Suzu was also there.

And another person as well, Teio who was asked by Gaharudo to show him around on the airship was also there but, when she returned and saw Yue and them, [Mistress as well~], she declared to Hajime and began carrying out the ruOndaibu *It's a reference which I can't make out, とハジメにルoンダイブを決行し*, sensing what was about to happen Hajime used his legs to strangle her and without a problem she dropped to the ground. Although her eye whites were showing and she was slightly convulsing, there were no problems.

[Ah~, did you finish exploring the warship?]

[Yeah, it's quite ridiculous. I have absolutely no idea how this mass of metal is able to fly. But, its extremely interesting! Oi, Hajime Nagumo. Prepare an aircraft for us. I'll pay whatever you ask for]

Gaharudo sat on the bench and faced towards him, his eyes were shining star-like in curiosity at Hajime. Shizuku and them also sat on the seats.

By the way, Shizuku and Ririana were sitting right next to hajime. Though Gaharudo was a bit unpleased, but his eyes were shining like a little boy and he didn't care much about it. He seems to have greatly liked this airship.

[I have no need for stuff like money. Give it up. This is going to be the only time you're getting on board. Do your best to enjoy the time you have right now]

[Don't say that. Na? Just one, even a small plane is fine]

[There's no merit in it for me though]

[Nugu~u, if money is no good then how about women! One of my daughters was finally becoming just the right age. Though she has quite

a lot of pride, her beauty is top-tier. I'll add her into your harem so, na? It'll be nice right?]

It appears that Gaharudo thought Hajime was an unparalleled playboy. It was sad that situationally it was something that couldn't be denied.

However, it would be troublesome to suddenly be handed a woman so Hajime was about to reject while laughing but, the females reacted quicker than him.

[[[[[No(desu*Shia*)(ja*Teio*)!!]]]]]

[……And there you have it]

[Chi, you're just showing off…..n? Princess Ririana, just now, didn't you also react?]

Gaharudo sulked and clicked his tongue and turned his line of sight towards Ririana and noticed. Allured by that, the others also turn towards Ririana.

[Eh? N, no way. Are you sure you weren't mistaken?]

[……Kukuku. Come to think of it, at the party, you were having much more fun dancing with Hajime Nagumo than with Bias. Oi oi, Hajime Nagumo. Aren't you moving along too quickly? Even I'm amazed at your speed]

[*She actually repeats Nya, but english-wise it doesn't make sense like it did with Hajime's name in the chapter 120 lol*Whawhawhawhat are you talking about! Me and Nagumo-san absolutely don't have that kind of relationship! R, right? Ne? Nagumo-san!]

[Ah? Ah~, it's as impossible as the heavens overturning itself]

[……You didn't have to take it that far……]

Towards Hajime clear objection, the riled up and increasing tension that Ririana had was immediately cut down. She looked away at something sulkingly. From that attitude, Ririana understood that she had no chance……

Or rather, in her heart she was looking back towards the dance from

the party. Hajime should have been thinking about it too but, to completely put down the person in question on the spot, glances of sympathy was looked at Ririana, then towards Hajime.

[……Why do I have to be looked at with those kinds of eyes. In the first place, the princess is something like a married woman. Although her fiance was beheaded, that doesn't mean that her marriage with the royal family was lost. That's why, eventually she'll be paired up with another royalty right?]

[Ah~, about that…..]

On behalf of Ririana who had the expression of having chewed hundreds of bitter insects and worms, Gaharudo answered.

[Being completely honest, my clan is currently not in the position for that kind of thing. After all, we have to wear these necklaces throughout our entire lives or else we'll die, we've got to deal with the many ridiculous situations that arose]

Just like Garuda had said, a necklace with a red gem was definitely on his neck.

[From the contents of that oath, even if someone else other than the royalty disobeys the contract, the royal family will "judge accordingly by the law" to the best we can, our lives are connected now, as it is, it doesn't change the fact that the lives of the public have also been grasped. A radical reform of punishment needs to be created in order to enforce the laws, and all the other towns besides the Empire needs to know of the law as well……everyone here and there are desperate right now]

As Gaharudo leaned back deeply into the backrest of the seat, he scratched his head as if saying, [I'm lost!].

[Now that I don't know when we'll be dying, I can't afford to have the princess of another kingdom marry in, there's absolutely no other choice. moreover, we've lost manpower because of the emancipation of the Demi-humans. There's people fussing about everywhere. We also need manpower in correspondence towards suppressing the public, honestly, it's a situation where the Empire actually wants to ask (. . . . .) for the

Kingdom's support instead]

[I see. In other words you're taking back the marriage proposed to the princess?]

[Ma~a, that's about it. We need to calm down the situation and confirm the safety of the royal family first, then once that happens, this time, it would be a better idea for his highness Randell……or rather Majesty now…. to marry with a princess instead]

Towards Gaharudo's explanation, everyone present gave off a, [Heh~] expression.

By the way, actually, one of the royalty screamed out, [As if there's any truth to that foolish talk! I'll be removing this necklace!], and they really removed their necklace, afterwards, they suddenly turned mad and rampaged around, and as if their threads were cut, they died on the spot, this was the reason why the royalty began to work desperately.

[Isn't that great then! Riri!]

[It really is. Freedom to love…..might actually still be impossible but, for the time being, you've gained time]

[Un un. I'm glad for you, Riri]

With Kouki first, the members glanced at Ririana with a gentle gaze. Ririana showed a bitter smile towards her friends who were glancing at her, pleased without reserve that the "marriage had been cleared up". Oddly enough, Gaharudo also showed a wry smile.

[With that, Hajime Nagumo. Right now princess Ririana is currently free*english accent*? If you want, the Empire will cooperate with you with all it's might]

[Na~!? Your Majesty! What are you saying! I, I'm not……]

Gaharudo was grinning from ear to ear as he said it. Once again Ririana was riled up.

However, Hajime was taking the contents of the talk lightly and turned an amazed expression towards Gaharudo. He had enough of Ririana's

current attitude.

[Then, I'll have to give you an airship in return? No matter how you look at it there are no merits.....rather, isn't it a demerit?]

[Just what are you implying!? Nagumo-san!]

[Oi oi, she's the princess of a country? Normally, it's a place that men can't even reach]

[Wait a second, did you two hear what I just said? Are you guys listening to me!]

[Don't group me with you. I have no hobbies to collect women. Princess is only a title, rather it'll only cause troubles]

[Hai-hai-hai, you guys definitely didn't listen. No one here listened to me. .....~Gusu~.....what exactly is a princess I wonder.....]

[Riri.....it's alright.....U~u, you're a princess so don't worry]

[Ri, Riri! I heard you properly, so! Show some spirit!]

Ririana was completely through with Hajime and Gaharudo's discussion, Ririana finally began writing characters on her seat in a negligent manner. At the edge of her eye, something was gathering and sparkling. Then Shizuku and Kouki were desperately trying to cheer her up.

Disregarding Ririana and them, Hajime was currently groaning, [Unununu], and Gaharudo who was trying to negotiate with him let out a sigh.

[I have nothing I want right now, just give it up. Eventually, just maybe, you'll find something worth negotiating over.....so just wait patiently until that time]

[Nu~uuu, you really have nothing that you want? Anything you want done? Just honestly say it out. Humans always have wants. It's always been decided that someone who says that they don't want anything are either no longer human or just scheming something behind the scenes. .....Ah~, that's right, you were a monster]

[You trying to pick a fight? .....Ma~a, I can understand what you mean. But.....]

As Hajime was saying that, he jerked and embraced both Yue and Shia.

[What I really want is already in my arms. “Having them with me at all times” is already enough to fill my entire head, I can’t think of anything “more” than that. Probably for life]

That’s why-, Hajime expressed that negotiations were useless. Yue was so happy she brought her body closer, Shia’s eyes were opened wide to have also been forcefully held like Yue, in the next moment her Usamimi and bunny tail began wagging back and forth and she threw her arms around Hajime.

On Hajime’s chest, Yue’s and Shia’s eyes met, both of them both laughed, [Kufufu], and smiled at one another.

[Ah~, ah~, I get it, I get it. Chi, it’s way too sweet for my mouth to handle. I guess I’ll go and enjoy the scenery on the deck.....]

Gaharudo got up with an annoyed look and quickly left the bridge. Hajime was smiling wryly. After seeing the face-to-face discussion, Kouki and Ryutaro didn’t know what to do and let their eyes wander around. Suzu let out an odd voice, [Howa~].

And a voice came out from behind Hajime and his legs.

[Uu~, it’s unfair that it’s only Yue and Shia! Ne, ne~e, Hajime-kun. “In my arms” is a metaphorical expression right? It’s not only limited to Yue and Shia right? Ne?]

[Ma, master. Although I got to experience your wonderful foot technique, will you not hold mistress closely either? “In my arms” would be nice.....]

Kaori clung onto Hajime from behind, she was desperately trying to appeal for her existence. Teio sat up and pleaded to Hajime with her chin on his knee.

The person who reacted to the two was Yue.

While getting up a little, she glanced towards Kaori and Teio.

[……How unfortunate]

[Wha, what do you mean!?]

[Mu~u, I can't ignore that just now, Yue!]

Kaori and Teio had an atmosphere as if they were chewing onto a handkerchief while letting out [Ki~iii!], as they looked at Yue who was expressionless. Yue inclined her neck as if she was thinking about something, then she slowly pointed at herself and Shia.

Then,

[……Winner]

Following that, she pointed at Kaori and Teio.

[……Loser]

And as expected, it was said with her expressionless face. Then as it was she snuggled her cheek against Hajime's chest. Then at that moment, a sound of something being cut "~Buchi~" could be heard within the bridge.

[Fu, fufufu….Yue's pretty weird right? suddenly saying things that don't make sense….she's surely broken somewhere?]

[That's right. That must be true. Then mistresses must fix it]

[Speaking of fixing, there's a simple way of doing it]

[Umu umu, broken things will…..]

[[Be fixed if hit! (No-ja!*Teio*)]]

They suddenly both stood up and overlooked down on Yue while smiling.

Extremely tensed*Doki as in the effect doki doki*? Fighting spirit*Toki*? -like began to overflow. From that pressure, Kouki, Ryutaro, and Suzu huddled together to brace themselves. Kouki began to whisper in a mutter, [Is, is that Kaori?].

Yue who was hit by both of their pressures, once again, smiled slightly which ruined her expressionless face and looked up.

[.....Stop it. If we seriously went at it, both of you have no chances of beating me]

Are you CodiOta*Unsure about what this reference is, コーディoーター * they wanted to tsukkomi her lines. And that was quite the intense provocation.

[[Just what we wanted! (Ja!)]]

Sure enough it caused Kaori and Teio to heat up even more. Yue also slowly got up.

[Wa, the three of you wait a second! To suddenly start fighting.....or rather, Nagumo-kun*lol whoops i didn't notice i had kun and san mixed up here, thanks gimme_breack and maniac88*! Stop them!]

Shizuku was sweatingly and flustered around trying to do her best to arbitrate the situation. And quickly came to the conclusion that she wouldn't be able to stop them herself! So she gave up and turned to ask for help from Hajime who was the cause of this dispute.

Hajime just casually said.....

[It's impossible. I'm sluggish.....]

His magical power was already drastically decreased and he became sluggish. He didn't seem to have any intentions of moving.

To begin with, a small quarrel was an everyday occurrence, rather it was more like a kind of communication for the girls, so Hajime didn't pay much heed to it.

[P, people like you are~]

However, Shizuku was still oblivious towards her surroundings then, a cheek began to twitch.

Then, a hanya-voice called out to Shizuku.

[Shizuku-chan! Please take that back!]

[Ar~e? Since when did I get pulled into this!?]

Quite naturally, Shizuku's participation in the war was decided.

[Sa~a, princess, let's both step up together! You're an barrier expert right? I'll leave defences to you and Suzu over there!]

[Eh? Me as well!? Why!?]

[Suzu was also casually included!?]

Teio with her draconic strength held Suzu and Ririana's necks like a kitten and dragged them. [Princess.....I'm a princess.....], Ririana muttered out with empty feelings.

[.....Shia, I'm entrusting you as the Vanguard]

[A, alright! I won't let anyone get near Yue-san!]

Full of spirit. It seemed that Shia served as Yue's vanguard. She got up from Hajime and started twirling her arm around.

[.....Hajime, wait for a bit. I'm going to beat them and come back]

[O~h, do it in moderation~]

[.....After we're done fighting we'll embrace again]

[Anytime is fine~]

[.....N~]

With that, the female members (except for some) left towards the deck with the atmosphere filled with fighting spirit. Although the deck was a moderate size it couldn't be said to have actually been enough. Surely It'll likely be good battle training. It's necessary for Kaori to get used to Nointo's body so moving around is a good idea. Since there's no telling what kind of ordeals they'll be facing at the great labyrinth, [Harutsuina Sea of Trees], it's good to train even if only a bit.

However it was unknown whether Yue and them had that in mind though.

After a while, roars and explosions were beginning to be heard. Kouki and them were startled. They had anxious expressions, wondering if it

was really alright to just leave them as is.

[They're having fun huh~]

However, Hajime's impression was just that.

[……Or rather what's with you, Nagumo…..]

[As expected, you're quite outrageous….]

The bridge that was only filled with men now, after looking at the bored Hajime, Kouki and Ryutaro were half amazed and half concerned. He wasn't phased at all with that riot that the women started, it seemed to have been completely natural so they were impressed as men.

After that, Yue and their fight ended after terribly scaring the Demi-humans, and finally the Sea of Trees were beginning to appear up ahead. Although it sounded as if the first to scream out was the emperor…….it must have surely just been their imaginations.

While quietly worrying for the emperor's safety, they began to prepare and land at the Sea of Trees.

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With the sun hiding its face, the curtain of night fell down.

The interior of the Sea of Trees was illuminated by Fair Bergen as people produced orange lights. Normally, no matter how busy they are with reconstruction, the time for pleasures of family meals and family time would be long past, and the serene silence would be flowing in the air.

However, the current Fair Bergen was as if the night and day cycle were reversed, it was wrapped up in clamor. People were busily running to the right and left. People started gathering in the village outside of Fair Bergen, it appears that people were arranging the soldiers and instructing them.

Towards that clamor, while looking out the window that was left open to let in the evening wind, one of Fair Bergen's elders, Alfrerick Hapisuto of the forest people had a slightly indescribable expression while holding
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a document in one hand.

In the contents, was a report about accepting in several thousands of their brethren back, it was that kind of document. The other elders were also helping out to split the work.

[Fu~u....Cam. Is our brethren truly coming back?]

[.....You're still saying that kind of thing. I'm not going to keep reassuring you every time you ask, just hurry up and finish preparing to accept them]

When Alfrerick began talking, as if the room was alive a person's presence appeared. Beside Alfrerick was the Haruia, Cam, who had concealed his presence.

Cam and the Hauria tribe came back through the gate ahead of Hajime and them to tell of the Demi-humans being liberated. And used the telepathy stones to increase efficiency of the preparations to accept in their people, that was their roles as volunteers.

[I know that. It's just that, it's still just to hard to believe. That Empire is really liberating our brethren.....]

[That'll be proven in a few hours from now. Ma~a, I can understand your feelings. .....For us, if it wasn't for boss, never in our dreams did we think something of this scale could be done]

[Boss.....the qualified person---Nagumo Hajime, huh. If that story is true then, he is not just my granddaughter's but all of our brethren's savior. We'll have to think of a way to repay him.....]

[Boss probably doesn't expect any of those kinds of things. Rather than that, quickly move that hand of yours. The reports are stacking up again]

Cam who heard a report from the telepathy stone, glanced towards Alfrerick for an instant. Although something was said to Cam through the telepathy stone, he only looked out into space, his appearance had no openings at all either. On the contrary, intense drive appeared from his lack of presence.

They once had an expression of resignation towards their expectation of their clan being executed……you'd never think they were the same person. Their original gentle atmosphere was also nonexistent now, instead they had a sharpness that seemed that it would cut anyone who just touches them.

In fact, that sharpness had already been shown.

That was because as soon as Cam came to the elders and told them to prepare to accept in the slaves which will be liberated, no one, not even Alfrerick could believe his words but, on that occasion, one of the elders felt that Cam's behavior was irreverently and unpleasant, so they started throwing out words in contempt at Cam and even tried to get him to kneel down forcefully.

Even if they've avenged the Kumaninzoku before and helped out when Fair Bergen was attacked by the demons and empire, the values that the Usagininzoku were seen in where likely not able to change so quickly.

However, towards that action due to fixed values, he returned it with severe murderous intent. The moment that one of the elder's subordinates tried to touch Cam, just where were they hidden, simultaneously the Hauria tribe appeared and placed their blades on all of the elder's necks.

Naturally, the man who was about to confront cam also had a blade pointed at him, it turned into a situation where no one moved a muscle. Filled with murderous intent, if you spoke poorly, there's no doubt that they'll bear their fangs, Alfrerick was somehow able to resettle peace in that situation.

In an instant, they occupied Fair Bergen's elder meeting who carried the highest power, and, made them all breakout into cold sweat with their fierce murderous intent, for the time being they decided to trust them and see what happens. Or rather, they couldn't do anything but that. The Hauria's blades which were on the scruff of their necks were dangerous.

[Oji-sama*Grandfather*, preparation for the meals are complete. This is the quantity left after consumption]

A lovely voice just like a bell ranged out and pulled Alfrerick out of his

recollection which made him break out in cold sweat.

[Mu, Arutena huh. Thanks for the hard work. But, you keep going back and forth*unsure, お前も帰って来てまだ間がないのだ*, don't stress yourself out]

[I'm just fine. My brethren are coming back, I can't just sit and do nothing]

Arutena took on a resolute attitude as Alfrerick was worrying. However, after passing on the report to Alfrerick, strangely she began to fidget restlessly. Though Alfrerick was dubious, he noticed that his granddaughter was frequently glancing towards Cam, and somehow guessed what she had in mind.

[If you're anxious about him, how about hearing about it from Cam?]

[! N, no, I wasn't particularly thinking about Nagumo-san……]

[However, I never said anything about a man did I?]

[Oji-sama! No way, please don't find faults in others words like a meanie!]

Alfrerick was visibly pleased while watching his granddaughter who was restless, he may have been serious about it?-she thought.

Due to Arutena's personality and figure, there have been many marriage proposals since her birth but, up until now she's rejected them all, the person in question wanted to follow in her grandfather's footsteps and work for the country rather than thinking about marriage. That's why he had never had this kind of discussion until now…..

From within Alfrerick, his foolishness and teasing as a grandfather started to rise up.

[Fumu, that man is definitely your benefactor but, he doesn't think of you as special? Or rather, to be specific he was helping out the Hauria tribe? Although you shouldn't think too much into it…..it'll be difficult to get him to become your partner]

[I've already said it~, it's not like that! Mou~! I heard that Nagumo-

sama was bringing back our brethren, so I was only a bit interested about it. Yes, that's the only reason!]

With a puffed out face, Arutena started to leave the room and Alfrerick secretly let out a sigh.

Then, at that time, Cam who was quiet until then, unexpectedly called out to Arutena.

[Miss Arutena]

[Eh, ehtto, yes? Cam-san. What is it?]

Cam had a smile as if he was amused at something which made Arutena reply back wryly. Cam reported smiling as he saw Arutena who was cautious.

[Although it seems as if boss allows many women to serve him, the fact is, he's fairly single-minded. And, the "special" positions have already been covered, as so, it's immovable. It's possible to get closer towards those seats but, you'd likely need a substantial amount of trust for that]

[Wa, ha~a.....Ehtto]

Cam was fearlessly grinning at the puzzled Arutena.

[By the way, according to boss's actions, the closest person towards that seat is.....my daughter Shia. After all, the reason why he helped us bear our fangs at the Empire was because, "For the sake of Shia's smile to not become clouded" he said]

[! Is, is that so?]

[That's right. If it was for Shia's sake, Boss would take on a country's army. Right, all for Shia's sake. Fufufu]

[!]

Arutena sensitively guess that he was basically implying, [You can't win against my daughter!].

Actually, Arutena was the same age of Shia who was 16 years old. Therefore, having been compared with another girl of her age and told

that she wouldn't even be a proper match..... there was no helping that she was angry.

[When you say Shia-san.....you're talking about the one with the pale bluish hair right. Allow me to say that I don't think I'm inferior to her. Though there is definitely a difference in the amount of time spent together.....even I would, with the same amount of time given to me.....]

[*light hearted no's*Iya, iya, our Shia is an extremely special existence, as expected, miss Arutena should stop from doing such useless things for your own sake, allow me to give you some advice. If you miss the marriageable age it'll become a very bleak thing]

[That's uncalled for!]

[Ha~a. Cam, would you leave the teasing of my granddaughter at that.....]

The huffing mad Arutena and the grinning Cam. Alfrerick let out a grand sigh as he looked at the two.

The reason why Cam was provoking Arutena was because he was a bit meddlesome.

Of course, he was not going against Arutena, he was going against Shia. The relationship of Shia and Hajime when they left the Sea of Trees could be said that Shia was rushing it. That is, as long as you're looking at appearances only, Cam had felt that their relationship had become quite intimate. After one push, make sure to rush straight beyond the goal!

That one push, in other words it was a detonator for Arutena to start scheming, If Shia had heard it, [That's extremely uncalled for!] she'd say in anger.

Cam chuckled to himself as he had lit up Arutena's feelings of rivalry. The appearance of a girl whos decided to love without hesitation and resort to anything was.....incredibly devilish.

Then, at that time, all of the sudden the outside became noisy. It wasn't the same noise from running around like before, it was the noisiness of tension from an unexpected situation. They even began to hear roars.

[What's going on!]

Alfrerick suddenly stood up from his seat and walked up to the window. Then he saw the cause of the commotion.

[Pillars....of....light?]

Exactly according to those words, light as strong as the sunlight during daytime was shining down onto the trees, no, the light was incomparably strong, that, rather than just the trees it lit up past them and lit up the plaza of Fair Bergen.

The situation was currently unknown, Alfrerick had his eyes wide opened and a calm voice resounded.

[Don't worry, Alfrerick. Boss has arrived]

Right, the identity of the light which illuminated Fair Bergens plaza, was the searchlight of the airship "Feruniru" which has arrived in the skies of Fair Bergen.

Chapter 123 : Night of Fair Bergen

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

An intense light poured down over Fair Bergen just like a barrier.

Demi-humans were running away in different directions when the plaza was lit up by the pillar of light, they were all watching from afar with nervous expressions of what's to come.

Similarly, soldiers surrounded the plaza while having an expression cramped with fear.

Bekibeki~, Baki~, Beki~!! *Sound of branches breaking*

Immediately afterwards, a scream-like sound was emitted by the tree's overhead as they broke. [Goodness gracious, has a new monster appeared!], as Fair Bergen's residents took a forward stance, it appeared.

What they saw first was a huge mass of metal. Gradually lowering it's altitude and finally the residents of Fair Bergen noticed that it was a gondola. Afterwards, the appearance of a devilfish-like airship "Feruniru" was seen. The ground was illuminated by the two powerful searchlights which were attached to the bottom of its front and back in order to look for a safe place to land.

The surrounding people could do nothing but simply open their eyes and mouths widely in astonishment, Feruniru slowly lowered the gondola to the ground and purges it, then it landed beside the gondola.

The plaza was completely filled up with the gondola and Feruniru and the surrounding people took distance from it in a panic. At the same time, they had a, what's going to happen now, face filled with unease as they looked.

Then, at that time, the front and back of the rectangular shaped gondola suddenly opened up. The Demi-humans were startled. The soldier's hands which held their weapons were drenched in sweat and, ~Gokuri~, the sound of their throats could be heard. Their expressions stiffened up when they thought about what might jump out of the gondola which was wrapped in darkness.

Among the residence's gazes, what appeared from the atmosphere timidly was……an Usagininzoku girl. With that, the residents expressions turned into bewilderment. In that situation where the residents couldn't process and understand yet, Demi-humans appeared one after another from the darkness.

Those who came out from the gondola in succession, all equally looked around their surroundings with a slightly unbelieveable expression. In the serene silence of the cool air, vigorously, along with the security they felt while surrounded by trees, the nostalgic lights of Fair Bergen, and the sight of their brethren who they believed they'd never see again.

Although they were still in a stunned state like vegetation absorbing water, they were gradually realising. "We've finally returned to our hometown" is what they said.

Fair Bergen's residents were also the same as well.

A woman hesitatingly advanced ahead slowly. It was a middle-aged woman who had dropped down inumimis. She had tears accumulating in the corners of her eyes and gently called out the name which she thought was lost.

[…..Zack, are you Zack?]

The one who reacted to that voice was a boy who similarly had dropped down inumimis. It was that boy which Kouki had worried about at the Empire. Once the boy caught the appearance of the woman, his face crumpled up into tears and started running out.

[Ka-san!*Mom*]

[Zack!]

As the woman knelt down and expanded out her arms, the boy leaped into her chest. The woman who was called, mother, was tightly embracing her son within her arms to confirm that it wasn't a fantasy. And the parent and child had tears flowing out of delight from their miraculous reunion.

During the period of the parent and child's reunion, the Demi-humans and residents realized that they've returned and shouted out in joy which shook the ground as they ran towards each other, family and friends were releasing a powerfully bright voice every time they met up with acquaintances and lovers who were safe.

Fair Bergen was wrapped up in great joy, the usual quiet tranquility suddenly disappeared and a festival-like racket began.

Inside of the clamor of Demi-humans which was filled with overflowing smiles, Alfrerick as well as the other elders came running up to Hajime and them who got off Feruniru.

[Boy.....you had a completely unexpected appearance]

[N? Ahh, Alfrerick huh. Ma~a, there were various bothersome things so overlook it for me]

When Alfrerick looked overhead at the trees which folded and broke, he showed a wry smile as he talked, Hajime was scratching his cheek and had a slightly embarrassed expression.

From the skies of the Sea of Trees, the idea to descend down onto and crushing the trees without question just to enter from the outside of the Sea of Trees because using a gate to transfer everyone was too troublesome was due to careless judgement from his magical power being reduced to almost nothing.

However, because Hajime had been impressed by Fair Bergen's beautiful scenery, as expected there's was a slight feeling of having done something bad.

[Sorry, Yue. Can I rely on you?]

[N.....leave it to me]

When Hajime called out to Yue by his side, Yue's lips loosened into a wry smile and she extended out her right arm overhead.

["Absolute Imitation"] *That's what I'm calling it, 絶象*

Reproduction magic "Absolute Imitation". It's a magic which restores all destruction regardless of whether it was organic or inorganic matter.

The moment Yue activated the magic, the tree's overhead immediately regained their former appearances. The elders exposed absentminded expressions towards the irrational magic which they witnessed. Only Alfrerick was able to guess that it was due to obtaining new Age of Gods magic and he massaged his forehead wrinkles like he was tired.

[Oji-sama, although I sympathize with your feelings, it's about time we should.....]

[Mu, that's right. Boy.....no, Nagumo-dono. I've roughly heard of the circumstances from Cam. Though it was unbelievably sudden, it appears that my brethren have really been released. we've likely just experienced a historical moment right now. First of all, as Fair Bergen's representative, I thank you]

[That's what you say but, the ones who did everything was the Hauria tribe. Please don't make mistakes here?]

Hajime gave a warning towards Alfrerick's words as he was indifferently putting the gondola and Feruniru back away into the "Treasure Warehouse". Suddenly the enormous objects from the plaza disappeared and the people who were expressing their joys began blinking their eyes. Then they paid attention towards Hajime and them who were facing the Elders.

[Ahh, of course. To begin with if the Haruia tribe wasn't here, Fair Bergen may have been completely obliterated from the previous attack. Considering that as well, there's nothing else to believe. Fufu~, never in my long life.....did I ever expect that it would be the weakest and banished Haruia tribe that would have defeated the Empire]

The Hauria tribe challenged the Empire to a fight and came out

victorious and they even rescued all the brethren----that fact having been stated from Alfrerick's mouth made the residents realise who the people that allowed them to reunite with their important people were.

They turned their attention to Cam who was standing next to Alfrerick with a straightened back. What dwelled in their eyes was not contempt at the weakest race but, great awe and respect of looking at a hero.

When Cam notices those glances, as if he had thought of something a mischievous smile appeared on his lips and he slowly raised his right hand. And as if saying, [Come over here!], he bent his fingertips. It was a hand signal which they used when they invaded the castle.

In that instant, it seemed like someone would instinctively tsukkomi, [*light hearted no's* Iya, Iya, where were you guys hiding!], the other Hauria tribesmen suddenly appeared around Cam! And they all took an "At ease" stance while lined up without moving at all as they awaited their command.

Cam had a satisfied smile as he looked at his tribesmen who stood in a line, his eyes were sharp like a blade and filled with drive which was enough to make people back away unconsciously, all of the residents------ to be exact it was the Usagininzoku who he raised his voice towards.

[My brethren. People of the Sea of Trees who have suffered humiliation and resignation over the long time. Listen. Though we've managed to overcome the Empire this time, eternal peace is impossible. All of your futures will definitely be threatened once again, not too long from now]

The hundreds of Usagininzoku that were at the plaza trembled in fear towards those words. Will the painful days of the Empire come once again? they're eyes clinged onto Cam who was making a speech.

[Once that happens, you guys will once again experience days like yesterday. No, not only that. This time, even comrades who have escaped being slaves will also suffer the same fate]

Although they were safe now, the dark future was pointed out, not only the Usagininzoku but also the other Demi-humans were looking down.

[Are you guys fine with that?]

There's no way it's fine. We never want to return to those days where our dignity was trampled on. Let alone, allowing our precious people to experience those pains as well.

But, even if you say that, what should we do……

Cam was glancing sternly at his brethren who were looking down, and as if the answer was right before their eyes, he further increased his voice.

[There's no way that's fine right? Then, what should we do. It's simple. If you want to protect those who are important to you right now…..fight. If you don't wish to live while being exploited in resignation then…..stand up for yourselves. If you wish to change the Usagininzoku's circumstances then……fill your heart with hatred! Just like how we of the Hauria Tribe did! The Usagininzoku was never the weakest to begin with! As long as you have determination, then you can become stronger than any other race! We've already proven that!]

Some leaked an, [Ah…..]. They realised that those who broke through the huge enemy and rescued them were not a special existence but the same Usagininzoku that they were. One of the Usagininzoku that was looking down rose their face up once again.

[Remember the humiliation that you received at the Empire. Do not contempt yourselves that it was due to unfortunate circumstances. Continue protecting your important people with your own hands. If you have the time to indulge yourself in resignation then take up your weapons! We'll teach you how to fight. If you seek power, if you've decided to fight then, you should come and join us. The Hauria tribe will always welcome you guys at any time!!]

After Cam finished ending his speech, he gave out a hand signal once again. Then, the Hauria tribesmen as if they were ninjas spread out and disappeared in an instant!

Once they saw that, Cam confirmed that the fires were lit up within the Usagininzoku's eyes and he chuckled to himself. [It looks like our military

power's increased once again! I'll make sure to not miss the chance to remodel their minds immediately once they first participate in the training!] he thought.

[Boss, I'm sorry to have side tracked. It was just too good a time to secure talented people]

[Ahh, I don't particularly mind. ……So even you've become able to speak like that~. With that, how about uniting all the Usagininzoku with the Hauria?]

[Hahaha, if it comes to that then we'll become quite fearsome!]

[……Recently, father's demeanor has become more and more like Hajime-san's. I feel that the "Gentle Usagininzoku" will become exterminated not too long from now]

Shia was looking far into the distance with a dry smile. It appears that it's only a matter of time before all Usagininzoku's become brainwashed.

By the way, Gaharudo was also there. Right before his eyes, the Hauria tribe which defeated him were gathering forces but he didn't say anything in particular. Or rather, he was in a situation where he couldn't say anything. In order to not needlessly give more information than necessary on Fair Bergen away, Hajime made him wear magic sealing shackles which were attached to his feet and arms and a mask which completely shut out light and sound (Yellow soil colored).

After this and after explaining the oath as proof of the Empire's defeat to the elders, they planned to immediately return him through the gate. That was the only reason they brought along the Emperor----there wasn't anything like dignity.

[Fumu, we can't let them stay out here any longer. Guide them inside. Arutena, I'm relying on you]

[Yes, oji-sama. Sa~a, it's this way. Nagumo-sama]

Because of Cam's speech, they attracted too much attention for a simple greeting, so Alfrerick urged Arutena to guide them into the hall that was prepared.

Arutena who received the task, nodded once, and then for some reason she tried to take hold of Hajime's hand while smiling radiantly to guided them. That action wasn't missed in Yue and their eyes. By chance, his right hand had already been held onto by Yue so she aimed towards the left side where Shia was, however Shia similarly smiled radiantly as she casually took back Hajime's left hand.

Shia and Arutena's line of sight intersected. For some reason you could hear an auditory hallucination of electricity being discharged ~Bachi Bachi~.

[We're counting on you (. . . .) to guide us. Arutena-san?]

[Yes, of course, Shia-san. But, since there are lots of people, for the sake of not losing you guys, I'd like to hold onto his hand?]

So she says, Arutena tries to get back Hajime's left hand which Shia took. It appears that she was properly listening to Cams provocation. It was an unbecoming attitude for the princess of the forest people*for some reason the author isn't referring to them as elves anymore, unless forest people in japanese is supposed to stand for elf?*. Rather than facing Hajime so on and so forth*This line's iffy, ハジメに対して云々というより*, Shia's sense of rivalry seemed to have been pretty strong.

[Just according to plan!], is what Cam seems to say as he was grinning from ear to ear, having guessed the circumstances of the surroundings Hajime smiled while releasing blood lust. In an instant, Cam broke out in cold sweat like a waterfall.

Hajime who was slightly stressed let out a sigh towards Cam and tightly gripped onto Shia's hand.

[Ah.....]

Shia unintentionally let out a voice. Then at the next moment she smiled brightly and she tightly embraced Hajime's arm. Although it was his artificial arm, due to its artificial nerves he was able to feel the wonderful feeling of having his left arm buried into her breasts.

While looking at such a happy Shia, Arutena unintentionally looked

towards Hajime, Hajime's eyes were coldly stating, [Quickly guide us in], then her shoulders quickly dropped and she began to downheartedly guide them. From the start, it was imbalanced due to Shia who traveled with him and had lots of contact rather than with Arutena, the results were obvious.

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Once they were guided into the hall, the elders sat towards the end, and the Hauria tribesmen including Cam was also at the meeting, and on the right was Gaharudo who sat across from Hajime.

He's already publicly declared the defeat of the Hoelscher Empire and Gaharudo has said the contents of the oath, to which the elders and others can testify to. With this, all elders seemed to admit that the Hauria tribe was telling the truth.

[Fu~n. However, how dare you nonchalantly come here alone. You're our sworn enemy. Surely you don't think you can return safely?]

One of the elders-----Zell of the Toraninzoku*Tiger*, stared at Gaharudo with hate who entered into enemy territory alone haughtily. The atmosphere was like anything could go flying at any moment.

However, even if such a gare was turned to Gaharudo, he was indifferent.

[Ha~a? Isn't it obvious that that's what I thought. I honestly doubt you'd actually try to kill me. If that were to happen then it would only mean that Fair Bergen's leaders are full of idiots]

[What was that you bastard!]

Alfrerick was holding back Zell who was furious.

[Zell, stop it. I understand your feelings. The reason Gaharudo came here was for the sake of pledging to the oath which the Hauria tribe placed on him. Nothing more, nothing less. If he was killed now, then all meaning would be lost in the Hauria's actions which they risked their lives for]
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

[Ku~.....]

Zell made a mortifying face and threw his fist against the floor.

Gaharudo was laughing through his nose when he saw Zell. The atmosphere in that place was the worst. It was clear that Gaharudo had no sense of guilt for having enslaved the Demi-humans and also had no intent of apologising. However, Gaharudo enslaved the Demi-humans because they were weak, the story of the Hauria tribe being able to free the Demi-humans was simply because they were strong. The elders gazed at Gaharudo with murderous intent and the situation further increased as Gaharudo simply laughed provocatively.

The one who easily broke apart that situation without questions asked was Hajime. Quit being so irritating already.

[Oi, Gaharudo. That's enough from you. Hurry up and leave]

[Ah?]

As Hajime got up and ignored Gaharudo's voice of confusion, he activated the gate while firmly holding onto the root of Gaharudo's neck.

[O, oi! You can't be seriously sending me back at this moment! Wait a little, I've finally come to Fair Bergen, there's a lot of things I want to find out about. Also you guys too, tch let go! Kora, you! I'm the Emperor! Don't go dragging me!]

Although Gaharudo was struggling violently, he wasn't able to overcome the inhumane strength holding him and he was mercilessly thrown into the other side of the gate.

Certainly, the reason why they brought along the Emperor was only because he had to admit to the oath that the Hauria created and everything else he says afterwards was unnecessary but.....[I'll remember this! Nagumo Hajime~e!!] as the Emperor shouted out it created a doppler effect as he disappeared onto the other side of the gate, that scene certainly provoked some sympathy.

Ririana who was by the side had an strangely glad face though, [Even though you're an Emperor~, even though you're an Emperor~, the way

you're treated~] she muttered out rhythmically. It appears that she was happy to have made a new comrade in having been treated in the same crude way that she was treated with.

Recently, Ririana had started becoming a regrettable princess, Shizuku who was by her side looked at her regrettably.

On the hand, the elders, especially Zell, were glaring at Hajime. [Why, did you dismiss the Emperor!] is what their eyes were expressing. The truth was quite ridiculous, to be honest, Hajime had no reason to be here either so if Gaharudo was returned then he could quickly leave.

[Please wait, Nagumo-dono. We still haven't decided on an appropriate repayment. Would you please stay around for a bit longer]

[No, I don't need anything, so. Those glances are irritating so we're leaving]

[Don't say that. If nothing is done with this much debt of gratitude, it'll be extremely shameful for us Demi-humans. At the very least, allow us to give you a place to sleep and eat for tonight. That's why, please stay around a while longer]

[....Haa~, I get it]

Although Hajime thought it was troublesome, he nodded to Alfrerick and sat down where he was before. after confirming that, Alfrerick turned around towards Cam.

[Well then, with this, the distinguishing achievements that the Hauria tribe has done has certainly been confirmed. Even though you were banished, you've helped us repel the invasions, moreover, going even as far as getting back all of our brethren from the Empire through an oath. We must repay you at all costs. For the time being, there is no one in opposition towards revoking your banishment. This was already decided after the last elder meeting after the invasion. From now on, you may visit Fair Bergen whenever you wish]

Revoking their banishment. That decision was already overturned at the last elder conference, having admitted to it just showed how big the

achievements that the Hauria tribe contributed to were.

However, Cam only muttered, [Is that so], while not particularly glad at all. His attitude was that anything was fine.

[And also. For your distinguished achievements on this occasion, Cam, as chief of the Hauria tribe, I'd like to propose that as a reward, he may become a new elder. How do you other elders feel about it?]

All of the aides had wide opened eyes in surprise towards Alfrerick's words. Over the last several hundred years, there has never been an event where a different race was presented the seat of elder. It had always been the 6 kinds of Demi-humans, the Forest people, Tiger people, Bear people, Winged people, Fox people, and the natural natives. If you add in the Usagininzoku into that formula, then from the Demi-human's perspective, it could only be referred to as a historical feat of honor for their race.

The other elders looked at one another and nodded after hearing Alfrerick's words, it was a unanimous agreement.

[Fumu, that's how it is. Cam. Will you accept the seat as an elder?]

[Of course, I refuse]

[[[[[.....Eh?]]]]]

Somehow or another, an atmosphere like, [Lets welcome our new companion!] appeared but, Cam easily cut apart that atmosphere. All of the elder's eyes became dots. It seems that they never thought they'd be rejected.

[.....Can I hear why?]

Somehow Alfrerick managed to recover, he was bearing a headache, wondering what was bad about something that Demi-humans thought to have been the greatest reward.

[There's no particular reason, to begin with you guys are fundamentally mistaken about something]

[A misunderstanding?]

[That's right. The reason why all Demi-humans were rescued was only due to the occasion. What made us decide to take action was because we thought about the future which would be the end of the Usagininzoku. The other Demi-humans, if I were to say it, "doesn't matter"]

[……What was that]

The elders looked at Cam unbelievably who was talking indifferently.

[Therefore, don't get the wrong idea. We the Hauria tribe were never your ally. If, you guys who have tasted victory on this occasion decide to go off and wage war on the humans and start stocking up on weapons which cause trouble for us and boss then……you'd best believe that the Hauria tribe's blade will be pointed at you]

[Are, are we not your brethren! Do you plan on pointing your blades towards your own fellow Demi-humans! Isn't that insane!]

[Fu~n, it won't change that you guys look down on the Usagininzoku. There's no point in trying to get all intimate. Ma~a, that kind of thing doesn't really matter. Anyways, all of our blades are held simply for the Usagininzoku's future. As long as you guys carve that onto your chests, then its fine]

Cam's expression after he finished speaking was refreshed. The Hauria who were also behind him were also smiling. Becoming a new elder, if you think we'd use our power for you guys then you're sadly mistaken!- their eyes stated.

truthfully, it would be a lie to say that they haven't calculated that far yet, Alfrerick and their expressions were bitter.

On one side, the people who were waiting around Hajime just watched everything unfold, then they all equally turned their eyes towards Hajime. [I don't care about anyone other than those important to me! I'm not interested! Pe~!] is what Cam's behavior was like, it was exactly like a certain somebody.

[It's as if you're saying that the Usagininzoku are independent from all the other Demi-humans]

[Alfrerick, you're always precise. It's exactly that. From now onwards, the Usagininzoku will be living by the rules of the Usagininzoku. Being incorporated into Fair Bergen's rules like a goody goody is something I want nothing to do with]

Aides and elders, the short-tempered Zell in particular, were extremely angry at Cam who was haughty. Although Cam had a cool face, the Hauria subordinates behind him were, [Ahh? got a problem with that!*Improvised, not really sure what they're doing here, やんのかゴラァ*] just like thugs who wanted to mince things up.

Within that, Alfrerick was thinking about something with a difficult expression, almost like ever since Hajime has showed up he's only been releasing tired expressions, then he talked to Cam.

[Then, Cam. How about if we recognise you guys as, "A race equal to Fair Bergen". Of course, that also gives you a special guest pass into the elders meetings. If we do this then you'd have no obligations to go along with what the elder meetings decide nor the laws of Fair Bergen, with that in mind, you'd have enough influence as us]

[Hoho~u. Ma~a, that's not a bad proposal]

Towards Alfrerick's new proposal, Cam smiled from ear to ear as if stating, [I wanted to hear those words!].

Cam had thought that in preparation for the day when the Empire eventually invades, he wanted some kind of connection with Fair Bergen. However, if he had allowed themsleves to be incorporated into Fair Bergen then he wouldn't be able to ignore the elder meetings and he'd be restricted from moving around freely. That's why it was best if they were an alliance only in name or as an external organization.

But, it was obvious that voices of opposition would appear when the Hauria tribe were getting too much preferential treatment. Against that, Alfrerick answered out while sighing.

[They are people who accomplished things as just a single race? Even if Fair Bergen collaborated with all its power, we'd likely not be able to do it. If you think like that, then its more than enough reason to consider

them as equals? Besides, there's also the possibility that this'll cause the Hauria tribe to cut off all ties with us, do you guys not understand the gravity of loss that'll be for us? If we form an alliance, they who have been banished will once again create a connection. If so then, things of this degree when compared to the size of their accomplishments isn't excessive at all]

Although the elders were twisting their heads while grunting out, gunununu, eventually no good proposals came out so the prestige of a single race was somehow pushed through the elders meeting and they decided to go along with what Alfrerick proposed.

[That's how it is, Cam. As a decision of the elder's meeting, the status of, "The Alliance Race", will be given to he Hauria tribe, would that be fine with you?]

[Ma~a, whether we're recognized or not, what we have to do doesn't change, but those kinds of things would be alright. Ahh, incidentally, we're using the big tree towards the south so you guys shouldn't wander in without permission? We can't guarantee your lives after all]

They never expected that Cam would place an additional order.

Or rather, he selfishly declared it was his land without permission. As expected, even Alfrerick's cheeks twitched a bit. Shia who was besides Hajime had covered her face with both her hands. It seems she was embarrassed at her fathers impudence. Her blood father was letting out a Hyaha~ though.

Afterwards, the strangely tired looking elders left and Hajime and them went towards the big tree and were guided into their rooms at Fair Bergen.

The town was still stirring up a big uproar over the Demi-humans returning. Kouki and them were wondering if there was anything they could help with and took off but, Hajime and them decided to relax in the room indifferently.

By the way, Ririana had returned to the Kingdom a short while ago. It was still necessary to negotiate with the Empire and report of the current

incident as well, they needed to decide the Kingdom's next moves.

Why, didn't she return at once, it was a simple story……from just a few minutes ago. Until Ririana said that she wanted to return to the Kingdom, Hajime had completely forgotten about her existence. When she passed through the gate, it's needless to say but something was shining within Ririana's eyes. *I.E. she was crying*

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Midnight

Even now, clamor can be heard throughout the whole town. They may have been holding some kind of celebration and feast somewhere.

Within that, Hajime and them who were relaxing as they desired inside of their room. But, there was one person who was strangely restless.

It was Shia. Since a while ago, she's been frequently glancing at Hajime and thinking about something.

To begin with, the person in question was receiving a lap pillow from Yue and was partly dozing off into the world of dreams, so he wasn't aware of Shia's state. As expected, his bones gave out after having to carry thousands of people. Yue was gently stroking Hajime who became dull as he relaxed his body, [Fumu], she looked at Shia sideways as she tilt her head.

Right afterwards, she looked at Teio and Kaori who were besides Hajime and were looking at her enviously. And once again, [Fumu], she nodded, she slowly called out to Kaori and Teio.

[…..Kaori, Teio. You want to perform the lap pillow?]

[Eh? You'll switch with us?]

[Mu? Of course I want to]

Teio and Kaori gave her eyes filled with expectations and Yue incidentally laughed.

[…..I'm just asking]
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

[[……..]]

Yue had a smile on her lips as if something foolish happened. When they saw that, a blue vein appeared on Kaori and Teio's forehead. Furthermore, Yue also said, [How is it, you're jealous right?], as she tightly held onto Hajime's head.

[……Yue, are you asking for a fight? Are you?]

[Fufufu, mistress, that annoyed me quite a bit]

[…..Are we doing this?]

Towards Yue's provocative smile, the two people, [If it's the continuation from the daytime then I'll take you up on it!], they said while getting up. By the way, the winners of the matching during the daytime was the Yue and Shia pair.

[……..If you catch me who's running, I'll allow you to be next to Hajime for this night]

[[!]]

As expected, they couldn't hold a mock battle within the town so Yue proposed a game of tag. And the reward for victory was unprecedented. Kaori and Teio's tension became high even though it was midnight.

When Yue confirmed the reaction of the two people, she gently placed Hajime's head onto a pillow and stroke him once lovingly. And as if not affected by gravity, she gently jumped towards the window and just like she was dancing, she opened the window as she turned around.

On that occasion, [What?] she glanced towards shia and blinked her eye for a moment. Shia seemed to realise Yue's intention and with a small smile she nodded in gratitude.

[……Game Start *english*]

As Yue let out those words she slipped out from of the window and in the next moment, she merged with the darkness and disappeared.

[Ku, I'll definitely catch her! For the sake of sharing a bed!]

[Fufu, I won't lose]

With a yell full of spirit. Kaori with her silver wings and Teio who grew dragon wings, jumped out from the window.

Shia who was the onlooker didn't follow them though because she understood that Yue had purposely provoked Kaori and Teio, so she intended to take advantage of the chance that she was thankful for obtaining. Excitedly, she went by Hajime's side and gently woke him up.

[Hajime-san, Hajime-san……please wake up]

[N? What's wrong, Shia. Or rather, just a while ago Yue and them left but…..you didn't go with them?]

Even while he was still half asleep, Hajime had felt from the flow of magical power that Yue and them had left through the window, why are you still here? he tilted his neck.

[Eh~tto, it seems that I missed it somehow or another, that kind of feeling]

[…..Somehow or another, huh]

[Uu~. Rather than that! Everyone else has left, should we also go out for a stroll? I don't know anything about Fair Bergen's interior]

Because of Shia's hair color, she wasn't allowed out in public, so the first time she's been to Fair Bergen was with Hajime and them. At that time as well, since they suddenly left immediately she didn't have time to explore the whole town.

[…..Ma~a, I guess that's fine]

[Yes! It's a midnight date! …….It sounds a little obscene]

[I don't know about that*A who cares, feeling*]

Somehow or another, he felt that Shia wanted to talk, truthfully he wanted to continue sleeping but, Hajime decided that he had no other choice but to follow along. Shia joyfully clung onto Hajime's arm tightly. Then the two with their arms entwined walked out into the midnight of Fair Bergen.

After about 10 minutes, as the two people who were on a stroll were having an innocent talk, they came to notice that they've walked far enough to not hear the town's clamor anymore. And they also noticed that something at the top of the trees were shining out in pale blue light.

[Ah~, those are Montofaruta, Hajime-san]

[Montofaruta?]

[Yes, its a butterfly which emits a pale blue light just like the moonlight. They crowd onto tall trees because of the wind, in the night they look just like cheerful stars in the sky. Except, it's not known when they'll actually emit their light so this is quite a rare sight. You either see it only once a year or see nothing at all]

[He~e, they're certainly beautiful things]

The two who were looking upwards, decided that since it was such a rare sight they should get a closer look so they quickly climbed up higher on a tree, they found a thick branch and sat down beside each other. For a while, they enjoyed the light that the Montofaruta emitted just like a planetarium.

How many of them were there? slowly Shia began to open her mouth.

[Ano, Hajime-san]

[N?]

[Thank you very much. For a lot of things that I can't put in words....really, thank you very much]

[.....Ahh. If you want to fully show your gratitude. Then I'm expecting things from you when we take on the great labyrinth]

[Fufu. Isn't this when you usually say "Don't mind it"?]

Shia laughed giggly towards the Hajime-like answer. However it quickly changed into a difficult expression and she turned her gaze onto Hajime.

[What should I do to repay Hajime-san?]

[If it's repaying then didn't I just receive it?]

[That was just words wasn't it. I want to repay your kindness in some kind of form. Can you think of what I can do which'll make you happy? ……If Hajime-san desires it then, I'll do anything. Really, anything]

Shia's Usamimi's moved around ~Piko Piko~ and she edged her but into contact with Hajime. Her eyes that were looking at Hajime were already moistening and contained heat, and her sighs contained enough heat that it seems like it'll burn on contact. The implied meaning, Hajime had certainly understood what Shia was saying but, he was daringly pretending to have not noticed.

[…..It'll be fine as long as you're still the same happy-go-lucky woman and laughing. You're our mood-maker after all?]

[Mo~u, what's with that, happy-go-lucky you say! Even though you hugged me in front of the Emperor and said I was important! This is the scene where say, [Then I'll have you repay with your body then, guhhehhehhe!], and attack me isn't it. Please read the atmosphere]

[It seems that we need to have a thorough talk about the image that you see me in]

[You're a single-minded good for nothing]

[Being single-minded there is usually a good thing though]

Shia puffed out her cheeks to show that she was dissatisfied. However, she quickly hung her head down disappointedly. Her Usamimi's also hung down as if they suddenly lost their power.

[……I'm serious, I want to do something to thank you. Ever since I've met Hajime-san and everyone else, I've l always gave it my all*I think, 私はずっと貰いっぱなしです*. Although Hajime-san and Yue-san says that its fine if I just laugh but, just being with you 2 will naturally make me feel happy, it's definitely nothing like showing gratitude]

[But still, you're our companion right? I don't think you have to continuously think about such things]

[It's courtesy in intimate relationships. I want to properly thank Hajime-san and Yue-san as well. …..I've thought about it variously but, I

just can't seem to think of anything. Hajime-san says that he doesn't need my body after all.....even though he tightly embraced me and said I was important, to tell me that I'm not needed.....]

[Don't sulk now.....]

Hajime was showing a troubled expression now that Shia was being timid. Even though he was being told that she wanted to express her gratitude, helping someone related to you was the natural course of action, really, just one word, [Thanks] would have been enough.

But, for Shia, those feelings didn't seem to sit well with her.

[If Hajime-san has fallen for me then I wouldn't be going through all these hardships. I'd fully service (thank) you.....ha~a, there's no helping it then. I'll try harder to be much more useful than before as we travel in order to relay my thanks]

[I see]

When Shia shrugged her shoulders, once again, she looked up towards the Montofaruta up above.

While looking at her stature, Hajime was suddenly beginning to remember when he embraced Yue and Shia in front of Gaharudo.

Being truthful, that was pretty much done unconsciously. Once he came to, he had already embraced both of them.

As of now, the huge feelings of declaring someone as "Special" could only be said to Yue. That's something that can be firmly declared. However, even if it was unconsciously, the reason why he held Shia within his arms was.....

Thinking up to that point, Hajime had a smile filled with self-mockery.

How could this be, ma~a, it was because he was selfish. While saying that no one was able to be on par with Yue, to have the desires to possess Shia, it was truly selfish. Once he realised it, Shia's existence somehow became much larger than before. At the very least, as much as Yue where he unconsciously embraced her so that he wouldn't lose her.

Although he'll likely still hold more feelings for Yue than any other person, even still, he doesn't seem to be able to deceive himself about his desire for Shia anymore. Once he became aware of it, he wasn't able to pretend that it wasn't there. If so then, do your best so work hard, how about taking on the attitude of the girl who came with them? Hajime suddenly thought.

[Eh, Ehtto, what is it? It's extremely embarrassing to be quietly stared at....]

Once he came to, Shia's cheeks were dyed red blushing shyly and squirming nervously. Her Usamimi as well as if saying, [U~u, why are you looking~], it suddenly dropped down, occasionally, she'd squirm around and look towards Hajime.

Hajime's eyes soften up when he sees Shia like this and he reached out with his hand. And her shy Usamimis were gently stroked.

[Ha, Hajime-san?]

[.....Na~a, Shia. I've got a favor I want to ask.....]

[A favor? Of course, it's fine! Feel free to ask for anything]

For a moment, she was surprised by Hajime's words, since she could show her gratitude even a little bit, Shia consented willingly while smiling.

[No, lets see, I kinda want to lie down for a bit. If you're up for it, can I ask for a lap pillow?]

[Fu~e, even if you didn't ask, please use it anytime. Sa~a, please step right up]

[Thanks]

Although Shia showed a slightly disappointed expression from Hajime's request, she was happy that she was giving him a lap pillow and she patted her thighs with a bright smile. Hajime expressed his thanks with a smile and laid down without hesitation.

Because Shia wore a miniskirt, he was able to fully feel the feelings of

her thighs. A soft and warm puffy feeling supported Hajime's head. It faintly resembled Yue's, as a sweet scent tickled his nose.

[Fufu, it's unfortunate for Kaori-san and Teio-san. Around this time, they're fighting against Yue-san in order to give Hajime-san a lap pillow, but I've already taken it ahead of them]

[Ma~a, Yue'll win anyways so there's no reason to worry about it?]

[You shouldn't say such things. Since they're want to make Hajime-san fall for them they're working hard. Really, I wonder when will Hajime-san finally fall for me~]

[.....Will you give up?]

[No way~]

[I see~]

Shia was gently stroking Hajime's hair. Hajime narrowed his eyes as he became comfortable. And as payback, he played with Shia's hair that hung down before him. The pale blue white hair was really mysterious when it was combined with the light being emitted by the Montofaruta that were above them.

If someone had seen Shia and Hajime right now, they would have surely had an face which vomited due to the sugar. That was how sweet those two's atmosphere was. Right, it was exactly like the separate world that Hajime and Yue created.

However, unfortunately, although it was the atmosphere which was created with Yue that Shia longed for, she didn't notice at all. On that part, perhaps Shia could truly be called a regrettable rabbit.

Even with the actual person not realising, the sweet time continued to flow gently. Within the moonlight where the Montofaruta illuminated, Hajime and Shia were enjoying their time alone with each other.

lol Author notes that it's getting near the end so there should at least be some kind of progression with another girl other than Yue

Chapter 124 : Imitation

This is not meant to be a perfect translation, I cannot read japanese characters and this was carefully edited based on translations I got from my Machine Translator. Therefore, there are bound to be errors here and there! At best, this could be considered as an unedited Final Draft towards an Official Translation

* * *

In the dense fog that clung onto bodies, people's shadow could be seen moving on without hesitation.

It was Hajime and them.

With Shia in the front, Hajime and them are currently heading towards the big tree. It's the second day after they've arrived at Fair Bergen, the cycle for the path to the big tree to open has finally come.

Within that time, there were various disturbances which Hajime and them were caught up in as they stayed in Fair Bergen but, if you compare it with what usually happens, it's likely not to such a high extent that it couldn't be categorized as their daily lives.

Mainly, the thing with Kouki and the freed slaves (girls), a group of male Demi-human's were doing this and that to hajime because of the thing with Arutena, and Ryutaro was doing this and that with the Demi-humans martial arts masters.....those kind of stories.

Along the way, forest demons launched a surprise attack under the fog. However, Hajime and the rest, Yue, Shia, Teio, and the Hauria didn't deal with it at all, they left everything up to Kouki and them. Since they didn't know what kind of trials the great labyrinth [Harutsuina Sea of Trees] holds, as a warm up they were told to take out the demons.

To begin with, because the Sea of Trees drives the senses of other races besides the Demi-humans mad, it was completely different than fighting against the demons at [Orcus Great Labyrinth], Kouki and them were having a pretty hard fight. They kept teasing by using hit and run tactics

repeatedly and Ryutaro was plainly irritated at the demons who made full use of the dense fog.

[……There! Like this….this!]

Within there, Kaori was mixed into Kouki and them's repeated combat.

Kaori still wasn't completely in full control of Nointo's body yet so she was there voluntarily to train. It appears that, the dense fog didn't effect Nointo's body as much, it seems to be just the right adjustment for the battle experience and trace skills that Nointo had.

Even now, while fluttering her wings which shined in silver, it shot out silver feathers to repel the demons. It appears that she's gotten used to using the silver feathers, as if they were homing missiles, they launched out at the demons and instantly decomposed them to nothingness.

[Ya!]

In addition, while giving out a shout, the approaching demons who slipped past the silver feathers were wonderfully cut into 2 by the great sword that was clad in silver light that was pulled out in an instant.

It seems that she still couldn't wield them freely like how Nointo did but, if its just one hit then she's considerably skilled. At the very least, it was at the level where she couldn't be embarrassed to call herself a "Swordsman".

[I seem to be considerably getting used to this. It's worthwhile that I get into a fight with Yue everyday] *<-This part may be wrong, it sounds different from what the machine's actually giving me, ユエと喧嘩しているだけの事はある*

[…….Your spec's are abnormal. I can't afford to be careless]

Hajime let out a breath and muttered, [Fuu~], as he watched Kaori's figure.

Although she's still not on the original Nointo's level yet which was able to give the Hajime at full power a hard fight, but if you think about her growth rate, it was wonderful since it was still only around 10 days

since her soul was transferred. Kaori's diligence is likely allowing her to rapidly master Nointo's fighting power.

[That's not true. I'm still not accustomed to using magic while fighting, if I don't concentrate on Decomposition it wont activate as well.....I still can't even get a hit off of Yue]

It appears that she heard the conversation between Hajime and Yue, Kaori was pouting as she moved forwards. She wants to quickly become stronger, she has the image but, she's frustrated that it doesn't go as she thought it would.....those kind of feelings are reflected on her expression.

[.....Kaori. What are you saying. Your physical abilities exceeds ours, you have the brutal ability of decomposition in your silver wings, and you've got aptitude in all attributes and can use magic without having to chant and without magic formations. Your swordsmanship is also progressing limitlessly like a joke as well, due to your proficiency in recovery magic, your defenses are like a fortress, even if they successfully inflict a wound onto you, it'll heal up immediately....it's already unsuitable to call you a cheat anymore, you're more like a bugged character. Yet you're still dissatisfied?]

Shizuku pointed out her specs as if she was amazed, Kaori had felt that she definitely felt like a monster so she just let her eyes wander around.

[But, I can't defeat Yue or Shia.....if I'm a bugged character then, what are Hajime-kun and them?]

[.....Something hard to describe or something...like that.....]

Shizuku was showing a difficult expression as she thought of the best way to describe Hajime and them, it seems that nothing came to mind in the end. Kouki called out to Shizuku.

[It's fine, Shizuku. As long as we can clear the great labyrinth then even we can become as strong as Nagumo. No, if you think about Nagumo's non-fighting class, surely we'd be able to be stronger than him]

[Looks like it. I'm looking forwards to find out what kind of magic we'll obtain]

[Un, lets do our best!]

Although Hajime's strength doesn't come solely from Age of Gods magic, Kouki who was through with it was strongly clenching his fist. Ryutaro and Suzu also seemed to have been pumped up.

[Every~one, We've reached it~]

When Kouki and them were firing themselves up, Shia tells them of their arrival at the big tree as she looked back over her shoulder. When Hajime and them chased after Shia who advanced ahead and disappeared into the other side of the fog, they arrived at a space that had no fog. Towering in front was a withered huge tree just exactly like they saw before.

[This is.....the big tree.....]

[It's large.....]

[It's extremely.....huge]

While looking above their heads, they weren't even able to see the top of the big tree, Kouki and them had their mouths opened absentmindedly as its width was so long it was as if they were standing in front of a wall. Surely it was the same expression anyone else would have had when seeing it for the first time, Hajime and Yue had a small smile while looking at eachother.

Hajime approached the lithograph while pulling out all the proofs that he's obtained from the other great labyrinths out of his "Treasure Warehouse". The lithograph hasn't changed since last time, crests of the 7 great labyrinths are drawn on the front and it's back was hollow in order to allow the proofs to be place in.

While crouching down, Hajime was playing with the 5 proofs in his palm, Kouki and them were finally freed from the large tree's dignified appearance and focused on Hajime. From now on it'll be a place where anything can truly happen at anytime. While bracing themselves, Hajime looked sharply at Kouki and them.

[Cam, Since we don't know what'll happen from now on, back off with

the Hauria tribe]

[Roger, boss. May fortune be with you]

By Fair Bergen's negotiations, the south land with the big tree became Cam and their territory but, from Hajime's words his expression became a bit disappointed, However he still decided to salute and then everyone spread out together.

When he confirmed that, Hajime slowly placed the [Orcus Great Labyrinth] ring of proof into the hollow section of the lithograph. Once it was placed, the lithograph began to shine faintly and characters appeared.

"4 proofs"

"Power of Reproduction"

"Guidepost of weaved bonds"

"A path for a new trial shall be open for those who have everything"

[This is the same as before as well. The used proof....is anything other than [Kamiyama] fine]

Hajime went ahead and set the proofs into the lithograph that while muttering. [Raisen's Ring] [Guryuen's Pendant] [Merujine's Coin]……

Each time one was set into the lithograph, it's light strengthened up. And immediately after placing the final coin, the light was set free and it scattered onto the front of the big tree, this time the big tree was the one that shined brightly.

[Mu? A crest has appeared on the big tree]

[…..Next is, the power of Reproduction?]

As Teio muttered with great interest, a pattern of the 7 angel systems stood out on the trunk of the large tree. Yue walked towards the shining pattern and while quietly touching it she used Reproduction magic.

Immediately afterwards,

Pa~aaaaa!!

The big tree was wrapped up in a light uncomparable to before, a wave of light was continuously rippling towards the top from the place that Yue had touched.

The big tree that was shining brightly, gradually revived as the light spread out to every corner as if it was absorbing water from its roots.

[Ah, leaves.....]

Shia pointed at the leaves which appeared as the tree regained it's vitality with each passing moment. It was almost like looking at the birth of life, Hajime and them were staring at what was in front of their eyes with a mysterious feeling, the big tree was quickly growing and it regained its bright green looks.

As a slightly strong wind blew by, the sound of the large tree's leaves rustling around could be heard. Then, at the next moment, all of the sudden, the front of the tree trunk was split from the right and left and a cave appeared. It was a big cave which could fit several tens of people.

Hajime and them looked at each others faces and nodded to each other and stepped into the cave without hesitation.

Hajime was slightly concerned------would the other members who have not captured 4 great labyrinths actually be able to challenge the great labyrinth of the Sea of Trees, but it appears that it was pointless worries. Everyone was able to enter the cave without a problem.

It was probably like the other great labyrinths in the stance of, [If you want to enter, it's fine as long as you have what's necessary. However, your life is not guaranteed].

Hajime looked around the surroundings. But, there didn't seem to be anything particular in the cave. It was simply a huge space which extended out like a dome.

[Is it a dead-end?]

Kouki muttered out doubtfully.

Immediately afterwards, the entrance to the cave began to shut as if it

had been reverse-reproductioned.

The light from the outside gradually thinned out. Hajime scolded Kouki who instinctively panicked. When the entrance was completely shut, the inside of the cave was wrapped in darkness, immediately Yue secured a light source and held it up in her hand. However there was no need for it.

That's because a huge magic formation appeared underneath their legs and it emitted strong light.

[Uwa, what's this!]

[What's up! What is this!]

[Quit making so much noise! Its a transfer magic formation! Don't be careless when you're transferred!]

After Hajime warned the shaken Ryutaro and Suzu, their view blacked out.

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[~.....This is.....]

What reflected in Hajime and their view when the light returned was a lush forest. A sea of trees inside of a tree.....created an indescribably odd situation.

[Is everyone alright?]

Kouki lightly shook his head and confirmed his surroundings for the safety of his comrades. There Shizuku and them, [We're fine], replied. Yue, Shia, Teio, and Kaori didn't seem to have any particular problems either, they watched their surroundings with caution.

[Nagumo, this is really the great labyrinth right? .....Which way should we progress in?]

The place where Hajime and them were transferred to was, a vacant circled lot where they were completely surrounded by trees in 360 degrees, there wasn't a guidepost indicating which way they should go either.
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Since it's covered in a dense fog, it doesn't seem like flying overhead to look for a path would be useful. That's why Kouki asked Hajime who had lots of experience with great labyrinths.

[……For the time being, we've got no choice but to look around]

Hajime muttered out with a slightly displeased expression, he placed his hand onto the trunk of a tree and activated "Tracing". A magic mark was created, a bright red arrow was placed onto the tree and pointing in the direction where they were going.

When Kouki and them saw that they nodded. It seems they understood that they had no choice but to search while placing signs. And they took the lead since they heard that even if you cleared the labyrinth, if they weren't recognized by the great labyrinth then they wouldn't be able to obtain Age of Gods magic.

The other members followed behind successively. However, only Hajime didn't move from his place as his eyes retained coldness within it. As they began to walk, Shia noticed and a "?" appeared over her head as she turned back towards Hajime.

[……Hajime-san? Whats wro----]

Shia called out to Hajime……in that moment,

Shuba!

When they heard that wind-like noise ring out, in a instant Yue and Teio, as well as Ryutaro were coiled by a wire, with both spheres on both ends fixed into the air they were restrained. Hajime had taken out the bola from his "Treasure Warehouse" and quickly thrown them to bind them.

Yue, Teio, and Ryutaro wiggled around as they struggled. When Kouki and them saw that they were dumbfounded. However, once they regained their sanity and as if it was able to produce a ~Ki~ sound they immediately glared strongly at Hajime.

[Nagumo! What exactly are you doing!]

Kouki instinctively raised his voice angrily. Shizuku and them had tensed expressions as their eyes conveyed that they wanted an explanation from Hajime.

[……Be quiet for a bit]

However, Hajime only said that and didn't answer Kouki and their doubts and silently looked towards Yue, he briskly walked up towards her who was expressionless.

And, as Yue looked up at Hajime perplexedly, Hajime pressed Donner against her forehead. His eyes had a coldness of absolute zero within them, it was obvious that Hajime was completely furious in anger.

[Hajime….What i-]

Yue had a, I can't believe it, expression as Hajime pointed his muzzle at her. And when she tried to voice out her doubt as she called Hajime's name.

However, immediately after that,

Dopan!

Hajime pulled Donner's trigger without hesitation. A dry explosive noise echoed throughout the sea of trees. For now, although the muzzle was removed from Yue's forehead and pointed towards her shoulder, even still it didn't change the fact that Hajime had shot his beloved lover.

Towards that fact, it was obvious that Kouki and them as well as Shia and them were intensely shaken. And they looked at Hajime with eyes that doubted his sanity.

[Wha, what are you doing! Nagumo-kun!]

[Hajime-kun! Stop!]

Shizuku and Kaori raised their voices to attempt to stop Hajime who was filled with rage but, Shia finally noticed the sense of incongruity and held onto Kaori and them by the hand instead.

Although there was an air like Kouki would spring at any moment to try and restrain Hajime but, that disappeared after Hajime's next words.

[Don't speak without permission, Imitations. You're only an imitation and you dare imitate Yue's voice. If you dare to call my name with that voice again. I'll scrape off your hands and feet]

The moment Hajime uttered his voice, as if the ground was arctic cold, the air was filled with coldness. However the temperature hasn't actually fallen. Murderous intent was overflowing from his body and in turn dropped the heat that life was giving out. Somehow, even the surroundings became dark. Towards the dense murderous intent, Kouki and them naturally became shallow breathed and cold sweat ran down like a waterfall.

[What are you? Where is the real Yue?]

[.....]

Yue's appearance was as if stating, "What is it", with her expression and was silently unmoved in her stance *<-I improvised and have a feeling the ending here is incorrect by a lot, ユエの姿をした"何か"は表情をストンと落とすと無機質な雰囲気を纏って無言を貫いた*. Rather than "Who are you" it was "What are you", this was because blood was not flowing from where she was shot in the shoulder. It was obvious that it wasn't a "person".

Dopan!

This time Hajime shot through the opposite shoulder. However the fake Yue still didn't change her expression. It appears that they didn't have a sense of pain. Just like Nointo, they carried an image as if they were puppets, or they may not actually have any will of their own.

[Are you not going to answer. .....No, do you not have a function to answer. Then its fine already. Die]

Dopan!

This time Hajime pointed Donner's muzzle onto Yue's forehead and used a rail gun to blast her head off. Behind Yue (Fake), something was splattering and scattering.

Although Shizuku and them instinctively turned away from it, if you took the time to look at it, it wasn't a brain but a rust colored slime that

had scattered. Yue's (Fake) body which lost it's head was beginning to melt after one beat, it similarly turned into a rust colored slime and stained into the ground.

Hajime continued to shoot through Teio and Ryutaro's heads consecutively while they were still restrained by the bola. As the two people splattered Kouki and them instinctively had goosebumps but, as expected they turned into a rust colored slime and were inhaled into the ground just like the Yue (Fake) slime.

[Chi. As expected of a great labyrinth. Starting right off the bat....]

Hajime cursed out as he holstered Donner.

[Hajime-san.....Yue-san and Teio-san are.....]

[They must have been transferred to a different location from earlier. There was a slight sense of the feeling when our memories were being searched by Age of Gods magic. The rust colored slimes who obtained the memories used their mimic abilities to disguise themselves, it felt like they had openings from behind?] *<-Unsure about this part, 隙を見て背後からって感じじゃないか*

Hajime's expression distorts into a bad mood as his lover turned into soup. Shizuku and Suzu nodded as if they felt admiration as they heard Hajime's guess.

[I see. .....Even still you've done good to notice]

[Un un, Suzu wasn't able to tell the difference at all. How did you notice?]

Suzu asked for Hajime's identification tips as it would be troubling if they couldn't distinct their own comrades apart. Kouki looked at Hajime with interest as well while worrying about the safety of his best friend.

Hajime's answer towards that question was....

[Even if you asked me. .....I can only say that the instant I saw them, I noticed. What was before my eyes was "Not my Yue"]

[[[[[.....]]]]]

In a sense, all members lost their strength when the answer was him speaking fondly of his sweetheart.

[Then, how about Ryutaro-kun and Teio-san?]

[Once you know that there are imposters then, with the “Magic Eye Stone” if you look carefully you can see a sense of incongruity. That’s why you don’t have to worry as long as you’re with me from now on]

Is that so~, Kouki and them looked at Hajime amazedly. Within that, as if Shia thought of something she went, ~ha~, while fidgeting she asked Hajime while expecting something.

[Ano, Hajime-san.....if it was me, would you also notice it in an instant?]

[!]

Kaori who was next to Shia reacted, in her glance she asked, [How about me?]. Somehow or another eyes were attracted to Hajime. Inside of the delicate bittersweet atmosphere, Hajime answered plainly without much vigor.

[Sa~a? Isn’t it impossible for just a moments glance?]

[[.....]]

Usually while one was reading the air, [Of course, Isn’t it obvious that I’d realize it?], and answer like that but, this was part of Hajime’s quality. While thinking that he mercilessly answered.

Unintentionally Shia and Kaori continued to stare at him but, Hajime continued to advance into the depths of the sea of trees while being indifferent about the two people’s glances.

[It’s questionable how he can have such strong nerves....]

[Au, Kaolin, Shiashia, cheer up!]

[Kaori is really, what about that guy is.....]

While following after Hajime, Shizuku and them glanced at Shia and Kaori who puffed their cheeks in a bad mood from their appeal. While having various problems at the the start of the line, they stepped into the

sea of trees.

By the way, in his mind, [If it was Shia I'd know], is what Hajime had thought but.....he had just decided to take on an honest attitude but he carelessly said that bluntly so he may very well be a tsundere.

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Vuu~uu"uu"uu"uu"!!

Exactly like an electric fan moving at maximum speeds, that kind of sound was echoing in the sea of trees. It wasn't one or two either. It was the buzzing of countless numbers. Translucent wings that were flapping at super-high speeds were already like a kind of attack as the noise reverates.

[Uu~, gross~, "Beyond Heaven-ugh"!]

[Don't whine! Suzu, it went that way!]

[Ku, it's quick! "Heavenly Flying Sword"!] *<-What I'm calling it, 天翔剣*

Suzu looking like she wanted to cry as she was holding in the physiological disgust she felt from looking at the demon.

That may be something that can't be helped. After all, the reason for the buzzing was a toddler sized "Bee". If you compared it in form then it would be a hornet. The super-huge bee-typed demon were attacking in swarms with their tough jaws and lethal stingers.

With a malicious yellow and black hue, their jaws creaked as it opened and closed, their stingers had green liquid dripping from it, their feet that waved around eerily, and their dark red compound eyes.....it certainly was a creature that you'd want to avoid.

Moreover, this bee-typed demon were hard to deal with because they were quick and they cooperated in groups. Furthermore, they could continuously shoot out their needles since a new one would immediately grow in its place, from mid-range it was exactly like a machine-gun so there was the threat of being swept by a rain of stingers.

Somehow Suzu's barriers were keeping out the stingers, as opposed to
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Kouki's method of hammering them with a single blow, Shizuku was breaking apart their cooperation and speed, however the swarm of bee's were not decreasing in numbers at all.

[Damn, these guys, they're exactly like the Majinzoku's demons!]

[No, it's reversed isn't it? They're monsters are similar to the great labyrinth's monsters]

Kouki wielded his sacred sword with a desperate look, he remembered the scene of bloodshed that they experienced previously and unintentionally cursed out. They had absolutely no space to relax because the great labyrinth's monsters were so strong.

At the moment a mantis-shaped demon that was around 2 meters in length was about to do a surprise attack on Kouki from behind but, Hajime killed it in an instant and tsukkomied at the same time.

A slight distance away from Hajime, Shia was killing 3 meter ant-typed demons in a single hit with Doryukken and blasting through the ground building a mountain of corpses. Kaori wasn't losing either, she continuously shot out silver feathers and close to 30 bee's were already shot down and decomposed.

When Kouki saw the spectacle that came into view, he grit his teeth as he feels the difference between Hajime and their powers once again.

["Beyond Heaven-ugh" "Beyond Heaven-ugh"! It's useless. We'll be overwhelmed!]

Suzu who was close to tears, created several shining shields, she kept repeatedly building new ones as soon as the previous ones were destroyed, Suzu's magical power was mercilessly shaved down.

"Beyond Heaven" is not that strong but its strength is that it can be produced in great numbers, Suzu was a "Barrier Master" so her barriers also carried enough strength to take on several attacks from normal demons before they were destroyed.

However, in front of the bee-typed demon's stingers that they shot out, those barriers were instantly broken as if they were paper waste,

currently Suzu was being forced to deploy barriers at unprecedented speeds.

Little by little, little by little, the deployment of barriers were being delayed and the scene of flying stingers gradually fills the distance, it was as if she was being strangled by a line of silk and it damaged Suzu's mind.

[Run rampant, "Thunder Flower"! mince them, "Flash Claw"!]*<-What I'm calling it, 爪閃*

Along with Shizuku's chants, a sinister flower of thunder bloomed in the sky, and a claw of wind minced through. She demonstrated her black katana's abilities on the approaching bee-typed demons.

With her sharp swordsmanship, she was certainly feeling the feedback of the demons being torn apart. With Shizuku being a Speed Fighter, being paired up against the bees was a good match. While disturbing their cooperation with her free movement skill "No Rhythm", one by one she was sure to slaughter them.

However, the bee-typed demon's strength was their numbers. Even if she could defeat them, Shizuku was lacking in overwhelming annihilation powers. Hence, the war situation was that they were gradually being pushed, Shizuku who noticed that had a bitter expression.

[Will of the blade, harboring light which will tear apart the enemy! "Light Blade"!]

Thanks to Shizuku, Kouki was able to chant as he liked and his sacred sword was coated by a sword of light.

The light blade extended his sacred sword by about another 2 meters in length. Kouki swung the huge blade of light while rotating his body in one motion which cut through all gathered surrounding bee-typed demons.

However because the motion of the attack held too many openings, the demons charged in towards him. In response his body was hurled backwards.

[Ku, why you!]

[Kouki!]

The bee-typed demon was about to thrust its stinger into him but, fortunately, Kouki's sacred armor prevented the stinger from coming near, Kouki somehow managed to use that chance to get up and cut off it's head.

He had no room to answer Shizuku's worried voice. In the next moment, he was attacked by huge quantities of demons so Kouki needed to finish recovering his balance.

[Uo~ooooo!]

Although Kouki waved his sacred sword while shouting, the demons in the great labyrinth weren't sweet enough to spare you any time when you've exposed a chance. At last, a bee-typed demon managed to slip past the sacred sword and get behind him, it then clung onto him from behind like spikes on shoes, it was trying to use its jaws to tear through Kouki's neck.

[~!?]

Kouki raised a voiceless scream.

in that juncture,

Dopan!

A gunshot.

The moment when the bee's jaws were about to pierce through Kouki's neck, a flash of light surged out from the side as it cut through the sky and easily blew off the bee-typed demon's head off.

Kouki who was unsteady due to the aftereffect, ignored the heat that he felt on his neck and separated himself from the remains of the bee-typed demon that was clinging onto him. Although it was a narrow escape from death, Kouki's cheeks cramped as more demons swarmed him.

------I'll be overwhelmed!

He was convinced. A voice that had no sense of panic was heard in Kouki's ears.

[Don't move, Amanogawa]

Immediately afterwards, countless meteors fell down upon the bee-typed demons and mercilessly trampled them.

Doo~opan! Doo~opan! Doo~opan! Doo~opan! Doo~opan!

You could only hear one gunshot but, the truth was that there were 6 flashes produced. *<- lol wut? the author only had 5 Doo~opan's*

The shining red spear of light pierced through all demons in the line of fire and killed them instantly. In addition, the bullets were shot out with well-thought out trajectories, they went through the air and collided with the other bullets and with that slight change in angle they efficiently pierced through more Demons.

According to their viewpoint, it almost seemed as if the enemies voluntarily jumped into the bullets. Such special technique could be called an admirable performance, the demons which were giving Kouki a hard time were overwhelmed by Hajime, the bullets were continuously spinning and reloading one another, in addition Donner and Schlag shot out when they fell into confusion.

……It didn't even take 1 minute before everything was taken care of. It was instant killings.

Hajime who annihilated the bee-typed demons in no time at all holstered Donner and Schlag as if nothing happened, he approached the defeated monsters as Kouki and them were stunned.

[Chi, it doesn't seem like there's any meaning even if I ate them.....]

[E, eat? Eh, Nagumo-kun, you intended to eat this? Seriously?]

Instinctively, Shizuku asked after being influenced by the previous act of devastation.

[Did I not say it before? .....If I eat a demon which is equal or higher than me, I can take in the opponents inherent magic for myself. In the abyss, the only thing there was to eat were demons. Ahh, you guys shouldn't copy me. Without a doubt you'd die]

[Even if you didn't say it, we wouldn't. Hearing it once again is truly sublime.....]

Shizuku was looking at Hajime with a complex expression. He's really reliable since he's helped them countless times by now but, she was reminded once again of where that power came from was through a sublime experience, she was lost on whether she should honestly feel admiration or not.

[Bu, but, why aren't you eating this thing then? No, as for Suzu, suzu doesn't want to see such a predation scene so you don't have to eat it but.....]

[I just said it just now? There's no meaning unless they're equal or higher than me. The guys around here are all small frys]

[.....I See~. For Nagumo-kun, this monster is a small fry~. I see~, ahaha]

[Suzu, I understand your feelings so don't break. Please come back]

Suzu who was giving a dry laugh as if slightly broken and Shizuku was sighingly asking her to regain her sanity.

[.....]

Within that, only Kouki was staring at the remains of the demons that Hajime had created while tightly grasping the sword in his grip. For himself, the enemy was powerful to the extent where he had almost lost his life, but Hajime evaluated them as if they were just stones on the side of the road without any value, he felt unpleasant from their difference in ability. Although he was trying to pretend to not notice, dark emotions were beginning to swell up again within his heart.

Hajime glanced over at Kouki who was standing still silently.

[.....Amanogawa]

[~. Wh, what is it?]

[For now just think about finding your childhood friend. Being worried about this and that, it'll be fine as long as you do what you have to do]

[Ah, ahh. You're right, we have to quickly find Ryutaro and them....]

Although he stuttered somewhat, Kouki nodded firmly towards Hajime's words. He braced himself again to search for his missing childhood friend.

After Hajime was glancing at Kouki like that, he seemed to have lost interest and averted his glance.

As a matter of fact, Hajime had clearly understood what Kouki was feeling. Inferiority complex and frustration, jealousy of strength.....they were emotions which Hajime had felt once before.

He never thought that Kouki who had everything would be feeling that way towards himself, it was a rather ironic subject. As Hajime was thinking about such things, because he had no feelings to consider for Kouki, he was simply through with it. The words from awhile ago that Hajime said out was already a big treat.

[Hajime-san, the other side was cleaned up~]

[Fu~u, this side is done too]

In the meantime, Kaori and Shia who finished dealing with the demons came back.

[Alright. Well then, shall we depart. I think that if its Yue and Teio then it's alright but, we should still regroup with them as quickly as possible. Sakagami is.....ma~a, whatever happens, happens]

[Wha-, aren't you treating Ryutaro too crudely? Say, I know that your lover is important and all but....]

From what Hajime said, Shizuku had a troubled expression as she tsukkomied. The party advanced through the interior of the sea of trees to look for their companions who were separated from them.

Chapter 125 : Even if the Appearance Changes

Some information before reading: I let all nicknames (Suzu calls Shizuku “Shizushizu” and so on) like they should be so Endo’s translations are a bit different. Also i decided to let some of the skillnames in japanese. Why? Because its cooler that way!

* * *

ZUDOOOOON! DOOGOOOON! GOOBAAA!

A roar shakes the ground in the sea of trees over and over, creatures which inhabit it were desperate to escape from the center of the explosion while panicking.

[Oraa! I’ll destroy this forest, get out of my way!]

Among the sounds that roared consistently, you could hear a scream.

It was Hajime’s voice.

Incidentally, it is Hajime who bombs the sea of trees in the present while scattering the roaring sound. A vein on his forehead is showing while he uses “Orkan” (TL: His rocket launcher) in both hands and randomly shooting rockets and missiles.

[A, Ano, Hajime-san, anymore is .....]

[That’s right, Hajime-kun, I’m sure that demon is already died, too and ....]

Without hiding his anger and frenzy, hundred of rockets and missiles were already shot by Hajime who keeps shooting cluster bombs with the “Cross Bits” from the sky in the forest, while Shia and Kaori fluster to restrain him.

However, ...

[Well, what?]

[Ie, it is nothing.]

[Un, I'm sorry to bother you.]

The two retracted their previous remarks immediately, because Hajime looked back with bloodshot eyes. (TL: He looked with blood lust.)

[Uu,.... scary. Shizushizu~ stop him.]

[Do not say the unreasonable, Suzu. I do not want to die yet. I think it's also reasonable why he is angry.....]

Shizuku gives out a sigh while she's calming Suzu who is clinging to her. She looks a little to the side. There was a crouching figure that was suppressing his own eyes with both hands while weeping.

[My eyes~, my eyes~, damn it, Nagumo! What are you doing so suddenly!]

A voice of agony is raised like a colonel from somewhere. It was the state of a person who got his eyes busted. Also, according to the words, Kouki's eyes were pierced by Hajime who used his fingers like scissors.

So why is Hajime so mad that he burned the forest and crushed Kouki's eyes?

After Hajime and the others fought a bee-shaped demon, they searched in the sea of trees for approximately 30 minutes. It was because of the encounter of a certain demon.

The demon was a monkey-type which attacked in crowds. The attacks flew from all angles freely by using the trees as a foothold and it was fairly troublesome. They were equipped with sword and clubs etc. Though it was unknown where they got these weapons.

Kouki, Shizuku and Suzu were fighting the monkey-demons and were played around with the tricky movements of them. Naturally, the monkey-demons were not Hajime's enemy, as one would expect.

Hajime, who wanted to join with Yue as fast as possible, let Kouki's group spar with the enemy to some degree.

Is it possible that the monkey-demon has some intelligence? The monkey-demons tried to take hostages. However, for Hajime, the thinking

of that degree was too shallow. The monkey-demons that tried to take a hostage were all killed.

In those circumstances, the monkey-demons realized that they are no match and tried to withdraw, however..... it accidentally made the wrong choice. It was the worst decision they could have made.

The main cause is the peculiar magic of the monkey-demons – "Mimicry". It is the same one as the one from the rust-colored Slime which made Hajime angry.

They also got the information of Yue's group and it is possible for them to disguise themselves as the companions which Hajime's group was separated from. However, unlike the rust-colored Slime, the monkey-demons were more intelligent.

In other words, it is possible for them to mimic actions which would disturb the others. They were able to think of that.

As a result, they used "Mimicry". It was to be used against the most dangerous enemy with the person they value the most. It was the lowest method to shake them up.

The monkey-demons dragged their brethren that used mimicry from the back of the bush. Its appearance was that of Yue. The figure that was dragged along was badly bruised with an unladylike appearance. Because it is based on the information of the teleported team, the appearance is exactly the same as the real one. (TL: Yep. They dug their own graves now.)

Of course, Hajime was able to see through the mimicry of the rust-colored Slime before, so he obviously knew it was not Yue.

Still, even with Yue's nudity and miserable appearance you can't tell the difference between the fake a real thing. When closing in the distance with his "Instant Movement" (TL: Shukichi, Flicker, whatever was used before.), Kouki's eyes, which almost looked at the "Mimicry"-Yue, were crushed.

At this point, though Hajime has already started losing his temper, it

was still enough for his reason to work. However, the monkey-demons, despite their high intelligence, couldn't read the mood. They hit the "Mimicry"-Yue in front of Hajime with a smile. In addition the "Mimicry"-demon was imitating Yue's voice. [.....Hajime, help me]. It became a serious matter because of that.

At that moment, everyone heard it. "BUCHI" was heard and something snapped. (TL: sound effects, think of it as a snapping sound)

And now, you can see a part of the sea of trees surrounded by flames of hell.

The scorched field which was 500 meters in every direction was already complete. If you look here and there you can see carbonized humanoids. In the wreckage, bee- and ant-demons were also seen.

Because it was an instant air strike, there will probably be not a demon that escaped unless some demons can make a space metastasis.

After Hajime burned everything in the sea of trees, he advanced while ignoring everything else.

[Don't give up you both, please! Who else can stop Hajime-san other than Shia and Kaori!"

[But....]

[No buts. Why do you give up here? It ends when you give up! Hora, do your best! Hang in there! Dekiru, Dekiru! (2xYou can do it!) A maiden in love is invincible!]

The words from Shizuku, reminiscent of some coach, inspired Shia and Kaori. To be frank, Shizuku was desperate to make the two to go to Hajime as he was hard to approach now.

Without knowing the real intentions of Shizuku, Shia and Kaori nod to each other and jumped at Hajime while he was reloading "Orkan".

[Hajime-san! Leave it at this!]

[That's right, Hajime-kun. You may drag Yue's group into it!]

He desperately glares at Shia and Kaori clinging to him. Hajime seems

to be dissatisfied and utters a twisted expressions and raised his voice with an [A?, a?]

The appearance was, no matter how you look at it, one of a person that wanted to free his head. However, as he sees the two going [Ne?, Ne?], he regained his composure after a while.

[Fuuuuuu~~~~~ I understand. For now I'll leave it at this. I feel refreshed after shooting.]

Hajome relaxed his shoulders and called back the "Cross Bits" and put them away along with "Orkan" into the "Treasure Box". Shia and Kaori regained their composure and let out a relieved breath.

[My bad, I made you take care of me.]

[Ie, I also got mad at their methods. It was inevitable.]

[Un, really, it was the worst..... In a sense it was expected from the great labyrinth.]

When Hajime regained his composure he showed a wry smile, the two shaked his head while shaking their own heads in denial.

When Hajime was talking in the background of a part of the sea of tree that almost turned into wasteland, Shizuku stepped forward while having a cramp on her cheek.

[Naguno-kun, if you calmed down could you do something about Kouki ....]

With the words [Ah, Now that you mention it.] Hajime turns around to Kouki.

Kouki was shedding tears while sobbing. His appearance was indescribably pitiful. Kaori immediately used recovery magic when it was suggested by a glance.

[Uu, This feeling. Is it recovery magic? Oh, i can see light] (TL: Yes he sees light, maybe he should also see a tunnel and go into it?)

Kouki is liberated from the pain in his eyes and is looking joyfully. In addition, when Hajime who is the ringleader of the pain is spotted, he

lifted his eyes and raises a voice of protest.

Shizuku explains the situation and the other party shows a dissatisfied face.

[You see, Amanogawa, though i am at fault, i couldn't hold back. It was a critical moment of whether my lover's improper appearance was seen by another man. A mans .... eyes should be crushed, don't you agree?] (TL: Written Tennokawa, read as Amanogawa. This took me some time. Maybe i should write down their surnames or something....)

[What's with that "common sense?". Don't demand for an agreement in that tone. I almost became blind. In the first place, how can you tell the fake apart? Setting aside the real thing, when i think about how i tasted the pain because of the impostor..... I'm really angry.]

[You are foolish. Comparing your eyesight with Yue's half-nakedness..... is like putting a stone from the roadside with a high-class jewel on a scale.]

[My eyes aren't roadside stones!]

Kouki objects to Hajime and shows resentment towards him, while Hajime wards of his remark, he goes back to his search.

While not taking notice of the other party, Kouki begins to get even more irritated. Shizuku and Suzu try to soothe the situation. In a certain meaning, they were indebted to a familiar girl. It was an unpleasant common point.

At that time Hajime caught a presence with his "Sign perception". It will come at the speed of a small run.

Judging from the feeling of the sign, it seemed not to be a very powerful enemy. Therefore, Hajime looked back at the sea of trees with a doubtful look.

Shia also tilted her neck while gazing at the depths of the sea of trees.

Kouki also guessed that something approached them while looking at

the manner of the two. It was a creature that resembled a goblin, while it made a rustling sounds (TL: “gasagasa” sounds). It had a dark skin with an ugly and distorted face, it wore a rag and was about 140 centimeters tall.

The goblin made a “Guga”-sound when it saw Hajimes appearance. Thought it cried with a somewhat excited voice, it movements stopped as it was startled by its own voice. It stopped and looked at Hajime. Because of its face, murderous intent was released.

In fact, it looked that way to Kouki.

Because he was not playing an active part in battle a feeling of irritation was felt by him and he made a rush to the goblin. He closed in the distance in the blink of an eye with his Holy Sword in hand.

However, the goblin which life was almost nearly cut, for a moment, it’s glance turned to Kouki, but it still did not show any behavior of taking a defensive action.

In an instant, even if Kouki had some doubts about it, he swung his Holy Sword down, because you couldn’t be careless against demons in the great labyrinth.

At that moment, when the Holy Sword cladded in light, almost cut the strange goblin in two,

[What are you doing, idiot!] (TL: “Boke~”, not “baka”)

[Nnabbubera?]

Hajime who caught up in a moment, kicked Kouki away with a “Rolling Savate”. A strange scream was raised and Kouki disappeared in the interior of the sea of trees, as if being run over by a dump truck.

Despite the demon before them, Shizuku was dumbfounded by the action of an ally getting blown away by a “Rolling Savate”. She couldn’t overlook the action, lifted her eyes in anger and rushed over to Hajime.

[Wait a moment, Nagumo-kun! What was that for!? No matter how you look at it, it was unreasonable. Kouki merely wanted to defeat the demon!]

[That's right! Or rather, is Kouki-kun alright? We must go look for him immediately.]

Shizuku and Suzu turned a look of criticism to Hajime. Shia and Kaori also did not understand the reason for Hajime's action.

However, Hajime did not hear their voices, he only gazed at the goblin in front of him.

In her eyes, Kouki was kicked away by Hajime's "Rolling Savate" without reason and Shizuku put herself on guard against the existence of the goblin.

Kouki turned up from the back of the sea of trees while rubbing his arm. Apparently, he seemed to have been alright. However, it seemed he was going to jump at Hajime, while anger was omitting from his whole body.

[..... Nagumo. Why did you do that? Why did you get in my way? The situation is different from a while ago. Don't make excuses. To protect a demon, are you sane?]

[It's not a demon.]

[What did you say?]

Without reacting to Kouki's anger and ignoring his muttering, he kneeled in front the still standing goblin. All members were astonished by the action and are doubting him more and more. Only Shia noticed something and muttered [No way....].

Hajime, who is meeting it's eyes on the same level, says some words that startle the others.

[..... You are Yue, right?]

[Gugya!]

[[[....What the?]]]

While Kouki and the rest were standing there with open mouths, Hajime did not hesitate and took the goblins hand and muttered [Yue...]. The goblin, with a joyful cry, answered [Gugya.].

[Ehm, Hajime-san. I would never have imaged it would be Yue-san. Uhm, I can only see a demon....]

[I, I can only see a demon. Is it really Yue?]

Shia and Kaori raised a voice of doubt, while looking at the goblin in front of them. The goblin begins to cry out/complain to Hajime with [Gugya , Gugogo, Gyaagya], while looking at both of them. It shoulders dropped, because it is not able to talk with them.

However, Hajime is there. There is nothing impossible for the man who loves Yue.

[Yes?, Yes~ The next thing you knew is that your appearance changed after the transfer?]

[! Gugya ! ..... Gugogo]

[Fumu, So it only changed the body.....]

[Gugya ..... Gyagya , Gugi]

[The equipment was also lost?....Oh, you came after the markings i have left?] (TL: Either equipment or accessories and “makingu” is written in “english”)

[Gugutsu ..... Gogagoga]

[That’s right, Hajime is where the explosions come from? Well, you aren’t wrong.....]

[.....Gyuuu, Gogo]

[Is that so, you aren’t able to use magic..... But, you don’t feel any other changes.]

[Gigigi , Gagi]

[Well, it should be alright. It’s probably one of the trials. It was an inevitable start of the game]

[..... Gyuuu]

[And Tio and Sakagami weren’t with you. Perhaps the same happened with them as with Yue. I still don’t know anything about the demons

here..... Well, Don't worry about it Yue. I'll do something about it as always.]

A normal conversation has been established. (TL: "normal")

[[[[[.....]]]]]

Kouki and the rest were speechless. Hajime didn't try to hide the fact that he was happy to be reunited with his lover and smiled.

[This kind of thing. Let's try "Reproduction Magic" out.]

[[[[[No, no, no, no, wait, wait, wait, wait]]]]]

[Oh, What's wrong?]

Kouki and the rest tsukkomied in a beautiful harmony and looked at Hajime with puzzled expressions. Everyone wanted to tsukkomi Hajime even more. Or rather, they weren't able to hold out any longer.

[Isn't it strange? It is strange, right? How can you communicate? Like nothing is going on!]

[Nothing is going on.... I talk because it is Yue?]

[Suzu only hears "Gugya"! No other words! How do you understand it?]

[No, with feelings... it is possible to talk with eyes.]

[Which reminds me, you always stare at each other.....It really is useful at such a time..... How the two of you communicate breaks through the center of the universe.]

[No, It's normal for a lover.]

[It's not normal? Obviously it is not normal.....What should we do. The "special" seat feels very far away.]

[Rather, Nagumo-kun. How did you notice it? Did you notice it before kicking me?]

[How did i, you know..... It's a simple story.]

Many tsukkomis were made and the others had tired expressions because Hajime answered with his common sense. At the end, Kouki

uttered a question towards Hajime, who looked peacefully at the goblin shaped Yue,

[It's just that.... Her appearance may have changed, but i will never lose sight of Yue.]

[[[[[.....Is that so?]]]]]

[..... Gugya]

With an expression that seemed like it was made of sugar, Yue (goblin Ver.) answered happily to Kouki's group.

[Putting that aside. Kaori, I leave the "Reproduction Magic" to you.]

[Ah, Un, I understand..... Well then, here we go Yue: "Absolute Imitation"!]

Kaori, whose eyes slightly regained sanity, was appealed by Hajime, turned towards Yue (goblin Ver.) and used "Reproduction Magic". Needless to say, reproduction magic is an age of gods magic and the effects are enormous. Hajime's group thought it would return her to her old appearance if they used it.....

[Gugya?]

[What? Why? One more time: "Absolute Imitation"!]

Yue's appearance did not change back.

It's like the "Reproduction Magic" isn't activating. A silver light pours down over Yue, but Kaori's magic is erased with a crunching sound. There is still no sigh of Yue's appearance turning back.

[Why.....]

[Gugya.....]

Kaori is stunned and Yue (goblin Ver.) dejectedly drops her shoulders. Even the other members had worried expressions. In the middle of it, Hajime folded his arms and hit the temple while brooding over the phenomenon.

Hajime wore a difficult expression. Yue (goblin Vers.), while gripping

the bottom of his clothes, looked up to him with an uneasy expression. She though that it would be also difficult for her to turn someone back with “Reproduction Magic”.

To such a Yue (goblin Ver.), Hajime returned from his deep thoughts and turned a vibrant smile towards her.

[Everything is alright, Yue. I’ve said it before, we fell into the trap, but a Game Over is impossible at the start. There must be a method to turn you back. I believe the “Reproduction Magic” doesn’t work because the quality of the age of gods magic is different. A special method needs to be used. It is a self-evident truth, that the challengers of the trial have “Reproduction Magic”. There would be no meaning to the trial otherwise. In any case, we will find the method to turn you back if we proceed further.]

[..... Gugya]

[Aa, don’t worry about it. And, i forgot about this. Can you hold this?]

[..... Gigi?]

Hajime passed Yue (goblin Ver.) a pair of jewel earrings. Because she transformed and can’t use magic, he guessed that she needs something and gave her an artifact —— “Telephatic Jewels”. (TL: actually stones, but they are earrings, so i choose “Jewels” instead of stones.)

[.....Hajime?, Hajime? Can you hear me?]

Then, a lovely voice affected the space, the same way as Tio’s transformation into a dragon does. Hajime’s expression loosed up and he looked very happy while hearing a dear and nostalgic voice, even if it was only for a moment.

[Yeah, I can hear you, Yue. Your appearance changed..... but i’m glad you are alight.]

[..... Nn. I knew Hajime would notice it.]

[That’s natural. I’m the one who understands you the most.] (TL: Missed this line, i’m sorry~ Did not notice till now)

[..... Nn. But i was happy. I love you.]

[.....Stop it. It's embarrassing.]

[..... Fufu]

The air around them became sweet and pink, even though she was a goblin. Even if the appearance changed, they still create their own world. The eyes of the other members became like ones from dead fish.

[*Cough*! Isn't it about time? Yue, I'm glad you are alright.]

[N..... Kaori, too]

[Yue-san..... Zettai, zee~~tai! We will turn you back! For that reason, you can rely on me!] (TL: "Zettai" means "absolutely" ,left it in japanese, because reasons.....)

[..... Shia, Thank you. I can't fight now, so i'll count on you.]

Shia and Kaori somehow regained their spirit and were able to exchange words with Yue.

[Yue-san, well, i'm sorry about a while ago. I didn't notice it was you.... I almost injured you.]

[....Don't worry. It was inevitable. And i believed i wouldn't get injured....]

[Eeh, is it about me?]

[.... Even from the hero (lol), Hajime would protect me.]

[..... Is that so.]

Yue's casual remark performs a clean hit. While withdrawing dejectedly, Kouki raised a dry laughter. Shizuku and Suzu try to encourage him.

[Well then, to change Yue back and find Tio and Sakagami we should push forward and quickly conquer the labyrinth.]

With Hajime's command the party proceeded to advance in the sea of trees once again.

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[.....Hajime-san, even I see it. That is Tio.]

[I also understand it. No matter how you look at it, that is Tio.]

[....Rather, it would be a serious matter if it wasn't Tio.]

[Unmistakable, That is Tio.]

Hajime and the others turn their eyes towards the filth they see.

After 30 minutes they joined up with Yue, they saw a group of goblins. The group assaulted one goblin with kicks and punches.

However, there was no intention of killing it and an atmosphere like bullying was there. The goblin seemed not to be injured while receiving an assault from the group.

If it was only that it was bullied because it was weak, it would be pretty natural.....

[No matter how i see it..... It's in ecstasy.....]

[Even though it has the face of a goblin..... We could never broadcast that.]
[Nagumo..... You, to that kind of person.... I don't feel like i could win it's heart.]
[Stop it, Amanogawa. I feel bad because i allowed that transformation.....I can only give up.....]

The goblin was floating in ecstasy, while the others where muttering. The appearance was reminiscent of a certain pervert. Or precisely, there could only be one such person.

[Tio... You are..... It's too late already.... Let's give up though it is regrettable.]

When Hajime shaked his head in a sad expression he quietly turned his back. Yue and the rest followed him without any hesitation. Normally, Kouki would say [Never desert a nakama!], among other things, but now his gaze is wandering. (TL: As in ignoring it and it is "nakama", which can mean friend, companion, comrade..etc.)

[Gu? Gyagya!]

And, at that moment, the goblin noticed Hajime's group and raised its voice.

As a result, the assaulted goblin seemed to notice Hajime. It opened its eyes wide and rushed towards Hajime, despite receiving an assault earlier.

The goblin (Tio) was crawling in a high-speed on the ground, while the other goblins instinctively pulled away and backed away. In fact, while the goblins tormented and bullied it in high spirit, they felt [Huh? Somehow you are strange.] and now they were convinced about it.

[Gugyagyagya!!]

Meanwhile, the goblin (Tio) tried to jump with a rupaodive into Hajime's chest. Though they can't understand goblin words, seen that, it was surely [Master~ This one longed to see you] or something along those lines. (TL: Forgot to mention. It's probably "scuba dive", i don't understand the censor of the author here so i left it~)

Of course, Hajime responded and said,

[Don't come near me, you pervert!]

Mekyo!

And he used an uppercut with his artificial arm.

The goblin (Tio) made an artistic backflip with four and a half turns, but did make a sound like it should have been. She crashed.

[.....Dead?]

Yue (goblin Ver.) peeked into the bush where the body of the goblin (Tio) fell. It's tail was pierced by a tree branch.

Then, [Bikunbikun]! The body of the goblin (Tio) was twitching, while regaining consciousness. Though the body is that of a goblin, the endurance may be that of a dragon. Or, she became an even bigger pervert.....

[GaGaGa! GoGo, Guge! Guga!]

The goblin (Tio) held her cheeks with both hands and screamed excited, while her body twisted around. And then, she began looking at Hajime with feverish eyes.

Instinctively, Hajime starts pulling out “Donner” and Shia desperately tries to calm him. Kaori handed over a “Telepathic Stone” over to the goblin (Tio).

[Uh-huh, a “Telepathic Stone”..... Do thou hear me, Master? This one met the beloved Master and the first words and actions were those of abuse.]

[Damn it. Even if the body changes, the toughness does not. It should just die already.]

[Tsu! Aah? Beloved Master. The lack of pardon, this one can’t hold out. Mistress is useless without Master. Now, Master’s beloved servant has returned. It’s good how the mistress, who is reduced to ugliness, is attacked without restraint!]

Apparently, even if she changed into a goblin, she still felt the pleasure. It was already too late as Hajime said.

The goblins, while ignoring Tio who is lying on the ground saying [Do as you like! Burn or boil me!] and still twitching, were insta-killed by Hajime. And the search was resumed in silence.

The other members also did not seem to care about it and follow Hajime without turning their eyes.

[Ho, is this neglect play? Master can’t be helped~ Ey, don’t leave this one behind!? This one wants you to wait~ This one is still shaking because of the blow a while ago~]

Tio’s voices echoes empty in the sea of trees. However, nobody stopped walking.

(TL: I used “it” rather than really translating it to english because i guess it makes more sense calling her an “object” rather than a “person”.)

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The huge branch bends and attacks irregularly like a whip. Leaves dance like a blade and scatter around. Tree nuts are shot like cannonballs. A sudden spear-like root dashes out from the ground like the sharp point of a sword. Each of these attacks are fatal.

It is very similar to the Tree-Demon Hajime once fought in the [Orcus great Labyrinth]. The demon is a so-called “Trent”. But then, when Hajime compared this Trent with the one he fought, the size is extremely different. It was 30 meters high and 10 meters in diameter.

Kouki, Shizuku, Suzu and the ogre-like creature are confronting the huge Trent.

[Guraaa!]

Meanwhile, while raising a shout like a real Ogre, it is Ryutaro who attacks with his fist to intercept the branches that come in.

Along the way, an Ogre was discovered fighting other Ogres. However, while the fight went on martial arts were seen – To be frank, it made refined karatemovements. It was obvious that it was Ryutaro.

Ryutaro might have been dead if they found him later as his status has fallen as Yue’s and Tio’s did. To go that far without running away, a tsukkomi was made about his muscle-brain.

And, Ryutaro finally joined with them as the last member. They reached the place with the gigantic tree which was obviously on a different size compared with the surrounding ones..... The gigantic tree said [Defeat me if you want to go further!] and began to rage as it said it.

At the present time, Kouki’s group which did not show any results till now said [We will defeat this guy!] and rushed out. Hajime’s group didn’t care and started to spectate the fight. By the way, Kaori is participating as a healer.

[Gwuuuu. The attack is heavy.]

A branch with the thickness of a log approaches, while cutting through the wind, and is received by Kouki with his Holy Sword. However, a groan leaked from the space of gritted teeth, while reminding how excessive the

weight of the attack was.

Shizuku is busy with shuriken like leaves, which fly like throwing knifes. Suzu puts up a powerful barrier to somehow intercept the attack and Kouki desperately decides to use the opening to attack.

[Kuu, No good. Because Kaori is here, we do not have to worry about not being able to continue……]

The black katana “Tsumehirameki” was fully taken advantage of. Shizuku gridded her teeth while cutting branches and leaves one by one. (TL: Not sure 爪閃, something like claw flash/lighting)

Hajime’s words before entering the great labyrinth, sank into the bodies of Shizuku’s group. Without Hajime they would have been annihilated already. The confidence they gained in the [Orcus great Labyrinth] was crushed into pieces.

After worrying a little, Shizuku shouted towards Kouki.

[Kouki! Use “Supreme Destruction”!] (TL: 神威 not too sure, used chapter 122 as a reference)

[No, it’s not good. The chant is too long!]

[It’s alright! We will defend you without fail! Believe in us!]

Kouki was troubled what he should do about Shizuku’s suggestion.

It was obvious that the Trent before them was stronger than the demons of the woman of the Majin-tribe (TL: Demon-tribe). The attacks only come one by one, however the fight is only somewhat manageable with Kaori’s backup. They could lose their lives if they lose concentration even once. It would take more than an average nerve to expose oneself defenseless in such a time.

However, it was certain that without an overwhelming attack they can’t reach the Trent. At this rate, they wouldn’t be able to defeat it.

In addition……

Kouki recalls the time when Hajime met Yue again. A mutual trust that did not change, even when the appearance changed. Hajime saw the true

nature of his lover in an instant and Yue did not show any unrest while she was almost killed by Kouki. Honestly, it would be a lie so say that he did not envy such a relationship.

Therefore, Kouki was determined. We have a relationship of mutual trust. It was absolutely not to prove that they will not lose to Hajime.

[I understand. I leave my back to you!]

[Yes, leave it to us. Ryutaro, Suzu! Let's gather up!]

[Roger!]

[Aye yo!]

Kouki did not move an inch while raising his Holy Sword over his head. Only his mouth moved while chanting. That state may be called defenseless, because his whole consciousness was poured into the chant of "Might of Heaven".

The Trent was sure not to miss that chance. The tree branches from right and left, a leaf blade which approached like a tornado from above, a shell of nuts from the front and the root of a tree attacks from the ground.

[This is sacred ground, the enemy of god will not be allowed to pass! "Absolute Virtue!"] (TL: "聖絶" not sure about this skill, also "YOU SHALL NOT PASS!" would also work, but i did not want to use a sketchy line~)

Suzu foresaw an attack and put up a barrier. Up till now her barriers have saved the party. The barrier withstood somehow the first barrage of attacks with small cracks.

[Tsuuuuu!]

Because of the consecutive attacks of the Trent, the barrier couldn't hold out and breaks. Suzu's groan resounds loudly, while Shizuku and Ryutaro (Ogre Ver.) are attacking in despair.

[Tsuuuaaa!]

[Oooooh!]

They were badly bruised in an instant because of the offensive waves of

attacks. They intercept every attack with their skills, while screaming and roaring. Though two people get damaged and blood spilled out, they didn't let any attack pass to the back.

["Kaiten!"] (TL: Changing the world or turning the tide. Japanese sounds a bit better.)

With only one world echoing on the battlefield, Suzu's wounds are healed in an instant by Kaori's magic.

Though "Kaiten" is a recovery magic for multiple targets, it's effects are already above the advanced level. Most wounds are healed in no time. After getting Nointo's body, Kaori was inspired to create new healing magic. It was possible to heal with "Regeneration Magic", however the magic consumption from the age of gods magic is larger than normal magic.

Suzu puts up a barrier again and earns a few seconds, however it gets destroyed again. Shizuku and Ryutaro put their lives on the line again. Kaori immediately heals their damaged bodies and Suzu puts up another barrier. They repeat this three times.

Finally, from Kouki's body, a huge amount of magic gushes out and covers his Holy Sword. The Holy Sword is cladded in light like the sun and Kouki takes a deep breath.

And,

[————Everyone! Here i go! "Supreme Destruction" !!]

He unleashes his trump card, his strongest magic. A huge torrent of light strikes the ground and flies forward. A leaf blade is blown off, the tree branch gets eliminated, the bombardment of the nuts is swallowed and the Trent is hit directly.

The roaring sounds and light explode, while the surroundings are dyed white.

[I did it!]

Kouki gives a smile of satisfaction and shouts. Hajime watches in the

back, while stuffing a small cake into his mouth, and mutters [Aah, he raised the flag.....].

The flag was certainly raised.

The light and dust clears up.....and the Trent is unhurt.

[It's a lie, right.....]

Kouki is stunned and makes a lifeless voice. It wasn't only Kouki. Shizuku's group also were shocked because Kouki's last resort was useless.

The Trent lets out murderous intent towards Kouki's group and starts attacking in waves again.

Chapter 126 : The Pseudo-Trent

* * *

"Supreme Destruction" ———— Is a power like the name says. A power worthy as a hero's trump card, a magic of the highest grade. Kouki came as a beginner into this world, leveled up, gained experience and was able to slaughter all enemies with his special technique.

However, the Trent emerged unscathed from the dust.

[Impossible.....]

Kouki was unable to move because of that fact. Shizuku realized something and raises her voice.

[Kouki! Look at that! It wasn't a direct hit!]

[Eh?]

When Kouki looked into the same direction as Shizuku, he saw a large amount of trees scattered around, broken into small fragments. Apparently, Kouki's "Supreme Destruction" did not hit the Trent directly. It was prevented by a large amount of trees in the front.

Though there shouldn't be any trees there? Where on earth did such a great amount appear from? The questions from Kouki's group were answered by the Trent.

At that time, the Pseudo-Trent gave out a pale light. A large number of trees spread out from the base and grew in a very great force.

[..... Unique Magic.]

Suzu muttered. That opinion was right. It was the unique magic of the Trent of the "Sea of Trees". It was freely able to create a large amount of trees and manipulate them freely.

[This, this is bad! This is sacred ground, the enemy of god will not be allowed to pass! "Absolute Virtue!"]

Suzu was momentarily dumbfounded, but was able to invoke "Absolute Virtue" immediately. Attacks poured in from all directions, while a

shining barrier was deployed with Suzu's group inside.

The branches which had a sharpened point like a spear gave an intense shock to the barrier one after another.

Not only the Trent, but also the surrounding trees also produced a similar attack. It seemed they wold get crushed to death by the almost oppressive amount of resources.

The "Absolute Virtue" won't be able to hold out without a chant. It already cracked here and there, it did not seem to hold out for another several seconds. And, when Suzu's barrier gets broken, will the others hold out till she deploys it again?.....Only an optimist would judge it doable.

[No good....anymore....]

Suzu realizes by the magic consumption, that the barrier will soon break and informs the others.

Kouki looks at Suzu. [Then i have to use "Limit Break" to survive!] He made his resolve. There is no choice but to accept that they need to use two of their trump cards directly at the first stage after entering a great labyrinth.

However, after guessing Kouki's intentions, assistance came from the rear.

["Forever Engraved"]

The reproduction magic "Forever Engraved", which Kaori used – regardless of the substance of the object – can regenerate everything to the state one second ago every one second it is used.

Suzu's "Absolute Virtue" which seemed to break at any moment, gets surrounded by a silver light. After one beat, the barrier recovered to its dignified appearance af if nothing happened. Even after the attacks of the Trents , it returns to its original state. "Absolute Virtue" is repaired every second.

[Wow, Kao-rin! Thank you!]

Suzu, while maintaining the barrier, looks back and thanks Kaori. Kouki and the others slighty relax their bodies because they got of the predicament and look to the back.

There, the Trents surrounded Hajime's group like it did to Kouki's. Hajime and the others did not seem to care about it.

Four "Cross Bitts" were arranged by Hajime in the surroundings and a triangular pyramid was spread as a barrier. (TL: Like this: http://www.math-salamanders.com/images/lgs-3d-shape-triangular-based-pyramid.gif) The space interception type produce a spatial magic "Four-Point Barrier".

"Reproduction Magic" isn't even used and still there are no signs that the barrier gets shaken. It seems to be a totally impregnable castle wall, without allowing any attack to come near.

[That seems to be the limit. I thought they would hold out longer.....]

Hajime murmured while looking down at Kouku who had a complicated look.

[U~n, Wouldn't they be fine if the hero-san uses his "Limit Break"?]

[I wonder. Well, if he goes over his limit maybe..... However, what will happen after he weakens after that? It is unlikely that he can recover from the fatigue of his "Limit Break" with healing magic.]

[.....It may be possible with Reproduction Magic.]

[I don't want to use it as the magic consumption is big. It's still too early for that.]

[Fumu. Well then, we should clear up here before the hero-boy uses it.]

Hajime was wondering if Kouki and the others would be acknowledged to have cleared the great labyrinth. Kouki and the others should obtain the age of gods magic , because [If Nointos appear in a great amount we could use the "throw the heroes at them"-strategy.]

So, they should raise their military strength in the great labyrinth [Appeal with: "We should fight hard!"] Or so he wished.....

Because it is unknown what may happen beyond this point, it's not preferable to use age of gods magic in succession because of its magic consumption. Even though they have magic stones stocked up, they don't know when Yue and Tio can turn back and are able to fight.

[Master, this one thinks you should not worry too much about the outcome of the battle.]

[Yes? What do you mean? Is it about the concept of the great labyrinth?]

The goblin (Tio) advises Hajime who thinks deeply about the current situation. Despite her being a pervert, her words and knowledge are very thoughtful. Though, she is still a helpless pervert.

[Yes. The concept is probably "testing the bonds".]

[Bond..... Speaking of it, the word was also on the stone tablet at the entrance.]

[That's right. Not only to test the bonds with the sub-humans, but also to test the bonds when capturing the labyrinth. Is it not so? See through the imitations, accept the companions which changed. It is truly testing the "deep woven bonds".]

[I see..... If there is a goal after clearing this trial you could call this a "guidepost". If it's that way, then there might be no problem if I clean up the battle. Amanokawa and the others only need to get over the "testing the bonds something" what comes after this.]

[That's right. Well, it is only a guess in the end.]

It is still a very reliable guess.

With understanding that, Hajime makes his decision and lets out a sigh. Even though he strengthened Kouki and other with the artifacts greatly, the great labyrinth reads the memory after the capture and there is a possibility it won't accept them if he makes them too strong and so he waited.

Hajime glanced at the Goblin (Tio) and lets out another sigh. Tio

occasionally gives sharp consideration and makes suggestive advice because she lived far longer than him. He's reminiscent that the race is supposed to be noble and respectful.

Originally she is thoughtful and considerate and has the perfect nature of the Dragon-Race which Yue longed for. Every man would be captured by her beauty as she's a very attractive lady.

Even though she's already a pervert.....

[Really, is it my fault?] Hajime worried in his mind. And he looks at the Goblin (Tio) and regretted it.

[Mu? Master's look of pity at this one....haa, haa, this is in itself..... already...Mistress is no good without Master.]

[Haa~]

Tios wriggling with her Goblin body gave out unpleasant feelings.

Hajime looks at the Trent which attacks without restraint but still can't tear Suzu's "Absolute Virtue" and Hajime's "4-Point-Barrier". In addition it still generates more trees. The surrounding view was already filled with trees.

[Taniguchi. I'll burn everything now. Don't undo the barrier if you don't want to die.]

[Eh?]

Hajime warns Suzu before unleashing an attack while she is defending from attacks from all directions.

Suzu suddenly answers dumbfounded with a great voice. Kouki and the other turn dubious expressions towards Suzu. The expressions will soon turn into dumbfounded ones.

Outside of the barrier, Hajime throws a moonlike-ring (Getsurin) into the air and takes out a remote control with an induction stone out of the "Treasure Box". With the power of "Wind Claw" and "Sign Perception" the surrounding trees were easily dissected and thrown into the air. (TL: Actually the author has written "sky", but i choose to change it to "air".

Makes somehow more sense. I'll use "Getsurin" from now on, just needed to explain what it is.)

The numbers exceeded 20. It's impossible to make them get battle mobility, but it's easy to change the tide.

And in the next moment, black liquid scatters around the Trent like raid because of the Getsurin. The black liquid scattered around is a tar that burns at 3.000℃ which even melts Fullum ore.

Hajime transfers a large amount of tar stored in the "Treasure Box" by using the gate function of Getsurin.

While trying to figure out what Hajime was doing, Shia and the other let out a [Uwaa~] and their eyes turned towards Hajime.

Certainly, it was effective to deal with the Trent and all the trees it quickly generated.....

While the girls gazed at Hajime, he threw a small live coal towards Getsurin.

In that moment,

Gooooooooo !! (TL: Not sure how to translate sound effects ゴォオオオオオオ！！)

Everything in sight was dyed instantly in flaming red.

The Trents, which didn't even worry when the tar was released, are now surrounded by a prison of flames of 3,000℃ and instantaneously burned by it. Though they don't have vocal cords, it seems they are screaming in agony.

The spectacle may be mistaken for hell which has manifested on this world. Now, every object outside of the barrier is certainly carbonized..... No, even cinders might not remain.

The tar does not burn for long, but the heat is terrific. The hellfire produced by Hajime extinguished naturally after 15 minutes. However, because the Trents ran wild, it even spread to normal trees, so Kaori managed somehow to extinguish the flames with water magic.

[We joined up with Yue and the other already, so i had no problems burning everything down....]

[Hajime-kun.... Do you even think before destroying everything?]

[Where Hajime-san is, there is also destruction.... Father and the others might think of two new names if they see it.]

[.....Hajime not restraining himself....Wonderful.]

[This one agrees, Yue. Merciless Master.... This one gets wet.]

Hajime releases the "4-Point-Barrier" and walks toward Kouki and the others who have somewhat tired expressions, while Kaori turns to Hajime looking troubled. The members other than Kaori are saying [That's very Hajime-like.] and [As expected from Hajime.]. With satisfaction on her face she nods in agreement.

[Nagumo-kun....A little while ago.... No, it's nothing. A rocket launcher has already been fired at random and cluster bombs were scattered around. This much is already normal for him. Therefore, get a grip, myself.....]

Kouki and the others made a complicated look, as if they are really safe. At the same time, Kouki glanced towards Hajime and bits his lips tightly.

Kouki wasn't able to knock it down even with his last resort and Hajime did it as if it was a side-job. Even if he was persuaded to come here to obtain the age of gods magic, will he really obtain it while being helped.....? Such uneasiness was welling up in his mind.

Kouki averts his glance from Hajime and tries to shake off his negative thoughts and looked back in panic as he heard "Mekimeki"-sounds from behind.

[Did it regenerate?]

Like Kouki said, a big tree grew rapidly from the carbonized ground while rumbling the earth.The Trent grew in no time. Exactly how a "Regeneration" would feel like.

Kouki and the others took a stance, however the regenerated Trent

showed no signs of attacking. After standing for a while it started to make a cave. The trunk tears open, the left and right side crack and an open space in the middle is created.

[I thought it was a middle-boss, but it was also the door which goes to the next stage.]

Hajime advanced towards the cave without nodding or hesitating as he was convinced. Yue and the others follow him. Kouki and the others who assumed a stance, followed him in a hurry.

The inside of the cave was without any special characteristics. However, after everybody entered it, the entrance in the cave shut them in and their feet began to shine at the same time.

[Another teleportation.....]

It was the same magic as the one at the entrance of the great Tree. Hajime strongly drew the Goblin (Yue) and the Goblin (Tio) towards him while muttering.

Because those two can't fight right now, even a trivial thing would be fatal. He wants to do something, even if it's a trifle thing. After coming this far, it's impossible to lose these two.

[.....Hajime.]

[Ma, Master.... Uu, this one is troubled by your gentleness.]

Were Hajime's worries transmitted to them? It looked more like the two goblins were really happy, rather than being scared of the transportation. Tio showed a very uncommon embarrassed (dere) side.

Shia and Kaori jumped towards Hajime with the words [Ah, me too~] and wanted to hug him.....

However, the attempt was one step too slow. As for Hajime's view, the scene where two people stretched out a hand was painted out with enormous light at the end.

Chapter 127 : Ideal World

Something before we start:

Hajime uses “boku” while speaking and “jibun” in his thoughts in these brackets ( ) till stated otherwise. Normally he uses “ore”. All three mean ” I ” in english. When I mention something I use (TL: XXX). Just so you guys/girls aren’t confused as it makes a difference while reading.

* * *

Chrip, Chirp, Chirp

The singing of birds and sunlight invading in the space of the curtain informs that morning has come. Responding to the sound, the master of the room covers his head in his futon (TL: Japanese bed) and it turns into an impregnable fortress.

And in the next moment a click resounds plainly and the devil raised a roar. (TL: Alarm clock = devil. I understand, same for me~ Die alarm clocks. Every one of them should be killed by a hero.)

Jiriririririri !! (TL: Strange alarm. Well…. Could be worse…..)

A noise destroys the silence of the morning in the room [Wake up, boke!]

[Uuu……]

The master of the room tries to protect himself from the devil in his fortress, but it’s impossible to do that forever. He extended his arm from the futon and in an instant “Banban”! The palm looks for the devil and hits it.

The head of the devil is caught at the third time by the arm because of the experience of the devil subjugation for 10 years and he succeeded in silencing the screaming.

However, the act that has continued on countless occasions wasn’t hard work at all. The arm of the master of the room dropped in exhaustion and was withdrawn straight into the fortress again. And he stopped moving

after that.

Immediately after that,

[Hajime~ Wake uuuuup!! Don't go back to sleep ! Wake up already~!]

A familiar voice is heard from downstairs —— The voice of a mother is demanding to wake up. The master of the room, Hajime, has certainly heard the voice in his half consciousness. [Resistance to the bitter end!] The defence of the fortress is gets even stronger after saying that.

[No good after all~. Mou, now really, every morning. Sorry~ Can i count on you again?]

[——] (TL: Really. They were that way. I only changed the brackets. Don't look at me that way. I'll get aroused.)

The voice of the mother is heard again from downstairs. It reached Hajime's ears because it was spoken loud on purpose so that Hajime hears it even if it was on the other side of the door.

Not thinking of the voice of the mother which has given up, already knowing who she's talking with and what will happen, Hajime still had no intention to get up obediently.

After all, every morning is a happy morning for Hajime.....

A "konkon"-knocking sound echoes.

However, because there is no reaction, the person understood the reason for it and opened the door immediately. The person calls out to the dumpling gently while getting closer to the bed with small steps.

[..... Wake up, Hajime.]

[.....]

Still, no reaction. A little more, he wants to hear voice more till he fully awakes.

[.....Hajime, wake up. If you don't wake up.....]

[.....]

She gently uses her hand shaking him. A small hand can be seen over

the futon and Hajime's cheeks begin to soften.

[....I'll attack you. Sexually.]

[Un, I'll wake up, so will you stop saying such a vivid thing in the morning?]

He wakes up immediately after feeling chills down his spine! And the futon was pushed aside. (TL: I don't really understand why the author used an "!" here. I let it inside, but it feels strange.)

[Morning, Yue.]

[.....N. Morning, Hajime.]

Hajime smiled for a while with his dear lover and savored the first happiness of the day.

Hajime is walking to school while suppressing a yawn. Yue is besides him and looks upwards towards him. Such a gesture can only be called cute..... Hajime is looking at Yue while they are going besides each other and is busy restraining himself.

Yue is wearing a blazer from Hajimes school. Her short skirt is fluttering gently while she goes backwards, turns her head towards Hajime and speaks to him.

[.....Again, staying up late?]

[Un, I was doing the work father asked me to. It was morning before i noticed.]

[.....It's good to be enthusiastic, but take care of yourself. Please don't overwork yourself.]

[Un, I'll be careful.]

Hajime and Yue are having a gentle conversation. They create a sweet atmosphere between them. A long time passed since Yue became Hajimes lover, however, the passion between them has not declined at all. For Yue to be near Hajime, the homestay was forced into Hajimes house and the transfer procedure to his school was finished very quickly.

Suddenly, the pretty girl with blonde hair became Hajime's lover and it became a fuss at the beginning. After all, Hajime is a genuine Otaku that spends most of his time helping his father who manages a game company. It's unimaginable why Hajime got such a beautiful lover.

His mother doubted it and panicked because she thought it was because of hypnotism and his father thought he had the ability to make delusions real. Even at school, after it was revealed that Yue was Hajime's lover, it became the hottest topic of the whole school.

Afterwards, it is needless to say that the boys were envious of Hajime. Yue is like Yue is, she was waging war with several girls for some reason. (TL: Wait what? Why?)

Such things continued for several months. It stopped only recently and their school life calmed down. Thus, because they overcame the storm, they can now leisurely stroll to school together.

Hajime, while looking at Yue and her blonde hair which reflects the light and shines brightly, tried to recall how they have met.

By chance, he helped Yue who was caught by some thugs and in a desperate fight he somehow manage to defeat one and rescued her. His face becomes hot when he recalls that she kissed his neck as gratitude towards him. After that they became lovers very fast. (TL: Author used "rapidly", but that sounds somewhat strange.)

(However, even thought i am an Otaku i managed to beat them. Humans can somehow manage it when they are desperate.)

Hajime smiles involuntarily, remembers his act of rashness, but somehow feels uneasy.

(……Huh? Where did i meat Yue again? Why was I at such a place? Huh?)

It's obvious that Yue is a foreigner and became a homestay student. That means he should have met her in a foreign country. Hajime himself remembers that he met Yue in a foreign country.

However, where was that actually? He wasn't sure and his thoughts

were hazy. As soon as he noticed that, those doubts came battered like being spilled from a bookshelf in his memory. The uneasiness and doubts swelled up in Hajime one after another.

[....Hajime!]

[Uwa, what happened? Why did you shout out so suddenly. You surprised me.]

Yue normally never talks in such a loud voice while commuting to school. Hajime's hearth almost jumped and he came back to reality from his whirlpool of thoughts.

After that, Hajime looks at Yue who has a somewhat sulky expression.

[.....Because you ignored me many times when i called you.]

[What? Really? Sorry! I was thinking for a moment.....]

Yue turns around suddenly in a bad mood. She was sulking and Hajime's eyebrows turned into the letter of eight. (TL: "八") At that time, Hajime's doubts disappeared completely.

Yue shows a mischievous smile and Hajime repeatedly apologizes. She did not sulk at all, she only wanted Hajime to care about her. She was happy that her plan succeeded.

To such a Yue, Hajime lowers his eyebrows to the character of eight again [Can't do anything about this girlfriend] and he wears a troubled look on his face with a smile. However, he wasn't really troubled like his expression looked like. He was rather happy.

While doing a brilliant turn towards Hajime again, Yue lines up next to Hajime and says something with a small voice.

[.....Doze off. In happiness. Look only at me.]

That voice did not reach Hajime. While Hajime looked at Yue who snuggled up to him, his eyes gently softened.

When Hajime arrived at the school and was changing his shoes at the shoe cabinet, a soft impact is transmitted to his back. It was certain that

someone bumped into him and it was a happy feeling for any man. (TL: Come on! Oppai attack! The attack was very effective!)

[Hajime-san~! Yue-san~! Good morning!]

[n..... Good morning, Shia.]

[Uwa, Shia-san ! Let me go! I always tell you to stop hugging me when you greet me.] (TL: Wtf Hajime? Shia-san? Is your head alright? I guess not....)

[To take away my happiness..... This is cruel! At this point you should take responsibility and marry me!]

[You skipped some steps! Anyway, let go! Highlight is disappearing from Yue's pupils. She stares without blinking!] (TL: Author has written "highlight" so I left it. This does sound strange in english. Think of her eyes looking dead or something.)

As for Hajime, he tries to tear of Shia from his back while not being too happy about the feeling on his back.

Shia is also a foreigner like Yue and came to japan to study abroad. Also by chance, he helped her and her family who were attacked by a thug and she repeats to show gratitude with repeating extreme physical contact.

The trademark headband (・・・・・・) she's wearing is shining in a blue color in addition to her white hair and her innocent smile she is popular regardless of gender and she also has a fan club.

Honestly, I am happy that such a girl is showing me goodwill, even though i am confused. It isn't so that i don't think of what would have happened if i had not met Yue earlier than her.

However, there is no meaning in thinking about such IFs. With Yue as the best lover, Shia's aggressiveness is becoming a headache for Hajime.

Though Shia's goodwill which she turn to Hajime with her excessive physical contact makes Yue have a bad mood, they get along well and they may be called best friends.

That way, they aren't able to be unkind to each other, and somehow they are stuck in a dilemma. Even though Yue wants to monopolize Hajime, she shows no signs to ditch Shia, her best friend. To Hajime is their relationship mysterious.

(Good grief, saving two girls from delinquents and receiving their goodwill. Which Gal-game is this? Moreover, a harem-route to be OK is realistically impossible. ..... What? Come to think of it, was Shia always wearing such a headband? Somehow, more, like, a different feeling.....)

While Hajime watched Shia's headband and searching his memory, suddenly both his arm were wrapped in a happy feeling.

While pressing such heinous fruits (deadly weapons) against Hajime while talking, they pulled him towards the classroom. (TL: No joke intended. He really has written "brutal/fiendish/heinous/evil fruits" 凶悪な果実)

[Why do you make such a difficult face in the morning? If we don't go to class soon the first bell will ring.]

[n....The teacher will scold us.]

Warm sunlight is entering from the window and raises the temperature gradually, however because of two people it becomes midwinter in the blink of an eye.

Hajime is paying attention to not spend too much time with those two at school. From the mouths of those two the words "classroom", "first bell" and "teacher" escaped. So he had no choice and felt a discomfort in his chest.

When he entered the classroom, in that moment, the looks of envy and jealousy were emitted from the men and stick all to Hajime. Because of Yue's and Shia's aid he doesn't get chased directly, their piercing gazes still hurt.....

(N? What is it? How to call this..... nostalgic? Huh, why, Why do i feel that way?)

Hajime couldn't understand his own feeling and sat down on his seat

while twisting his neck and being even more confused.

Immediatly after that, one girl from the class approaches Hajime.

[Hajime-kun, Good Morning. You came at the last-minute today. You should come earlier.]

[……]

The girl – Shirasaki Kaori – who greeted him is not inferior to Yue or Shia even if you compare them. She was the School Madonna before Yue and Shia came. Also, she is also a girl who favors Hajime for some reason.

She has called out to Hajime often already before, but he did not think it was because she had courtesy for him. However, because Yue named herself as Hajimes lover, Kaori started to make her goodwill shown towards Hajime as she knew she had feelings for him. Because of that it was impossible to run away from misunderstandings.

Kaori came closer to Hajime with "patapata" steps which sounded happy and Hajime showed a troubled smile……This time however, because Hajime was caught in his thoughts he didn't answer Kaori.

(That line…..somewhere….Damn it, What is it? Why did i think of that as "nostalgic"? Though it is the usual…. Today is somewhat strange.)

[Hajime-kun…. Why do you ignore me? Well… Have I made you angry somehow?]

When hearing the trembling voice, Hajime looks up and sees Kaori with a tearful expression. Hajime noticed that he had been ignoring Kaori's greeting and answered in a hurry.

[No, sorry. That's not it. I was thinking for a moment. I'm really sorry. Morning, Shirasaki-san.]

[Oh, i'm glad~ . Un, Morning Hajime-kun. And don't i always tell you i want you to call me "Kaori"?]

Kaori puffs out her cheecks and shows her dissatisfaction. Because of such a lovely gesture, all the young men that looked at Hajime were almost all shot. (TL: Cuteness overload.)

[No, Shirasaki-san. That's a bit....]

[It's Kaori. Call me that?]

[No, that's.....]

[Ka-o-ri!]

[That, err, Ka, Kao.....]

Muu! Hajime is overwhelmed by Kaori as she wants him to call her by her given name. And when he was almost persuaded to do so,

[.....Don't trouble Hajime.]

The savior appeared. It was Yue.

Yue protected Hajime and cut in between Hajime and Kaori with an imposed stance.

[Muu, you came out, Yue. For the time being, Morning.]

[.....n, for now, Morning. Kaori.]

While Yue and Kaori greet each other, an icy enviroment between them is created. They officially recognize each other as rivals in school.

Warm sunlight enters from the window and it becomes warmer, however between those two, it becomes midwinter suddenly. "Cold War" —— The battle over Hajime between Yue and Kaori is known not only by the students, but also by the teachers.

Though those two stare at each other for a while, there is no malicious feeling there. In spite of the war of love between them, those two, in a dignified manner, collide with each other openly.

For Hajime it wasn't too strange, rather than rivals, they were like close friends which did not hate each other, but had a quarrel like friends.

Meanwhile the bell rang, and the head teacher entered the classroom. Yue and Kaori who had been exchanging glances returned to their seats quickly.

In the first period was the english class from Tio-sensei. A beauty that for some reason likes Hajime. She is an erotic female teacher that always

without exception sexually harasses Hajime.....

Immediately make some disciplinary dismissals! While thinking that, he glares at her while neglecting the harassment and she stops immediately her sexual harassment. For some reason, she tries to hide her expression which is red and her shoulders shake..... Hajime got depressed because he thought she was scared of his face. (TL: Tio stays Tio, wherever she is....)

After school, Hajime and Yue were walking besides each other towards a certain place. Shia, Kaori and for some reason Tio-sensei wanted to come with them, but Yue cut them down with a single strike of a sword. (Of course, only in a mental meaning.) Because they were temporarily immobilized, only those two were able to go.

The place at which they arrived at while enjoying an innocent conversation was a kindergarten.

At that place, Myuu, the daughter of Remia which was mothers friend (TL: Speaks of Hajime's mother probably) was there and they came for her because Remia was busy. And this picking-up, until Remia comes back, became the daily life of Hajime's family which continues since long ago.

[Aa Pa..... Onii-chan! Yue-neechan!] (TL: She almost said almost "papa". I want to take her home. Onii-chan = brother, Neechan = sister, most will know. Just in case)

Hajime and Yue went through the front gate of the of the kindergarten and Myuu came running to them with small steps. She was smiling with her whole face. Unconsciously, Hajime and Yue had a warm and fluffy feeling. The two catch Myuu which rushed to them and embraced her with a "gyu".

[Myuu, it's no good to dive/jump into us. It's dangerous you know? Also, did you just try to call me "Papa"? Really, don't do that.]

[.....I wouldn't mind being called "Mama".]

Hajime almost break out in cold sweat because of how Myuu wanted to

call him.

Myuu called Hajime “Papa” before and it became a hassle as other parents also were there. Remia was a widow, Myuu didn’t know her father and they thought that the gentle older man, Hajime, was her father.

However, calling Hajime, an active high school student, “Papa”..... Naturally, some rumors were spread.

Moreover, Yue is also a foreigner the same as Myuu is. It should be understood what the other parents were imagining. Namely, they thought she got pregnant somewhere between primary school and middle school!

When Yue heard about the misunderstanding, the misunderstanding escalated further as she only blushed without denying it. Yue imagined making a child with Hajime, but the timing for that was just too bad.

In one way or another, the teachers of the kindergarten solved the misunderstandings. On a later date, Remia has written a letter so that the misunderstanding doesn’t spread further so that it disappears from Hajime’s town. Honestly, he almost was breaking out in cold sweat.

Moreover Remia is a widow and it was possible he would aim for her next time? A lady-killer with a docile face! And most turned cautious eyes towards him. Recently, he has given up on that already. Still, more or less, he doesn’t let her call him papa.

They walk with Myuu between them while holding hands home. From time to time, they swing Myuu forth and back like on a swing while chatting. If you look from the side, it completely looks like a family.

[.....Myuu, what were you doing today?]

[Ehm, today.....] (TL: E to ne, kyou wa..... KAWAI, damn it! Yes, I like Myuu. Problems with that? Long live cute things!)

Myuu answers Yue what she was doing today. While seeing such a Myuu, Yue looks at her very gently. It is full of love and warmth overflows. Somehow, Hajime has been fascinated by such a divine Yue.

It takes a while till a ill-humored voice reaches Hajime.

[Mou, pap—- Onii-chan! Do you hear what Myuu is talking about?]

[Eh? Aah, sorry, sorry. I was spacing out for a bit.]

Hajime smiles with a wry smile while apologizing to Myuu which is angry and lifts her arm. And to please her, Hajime starts to cuddle with her.

Though Myuu restores her mood very fast as she was held, she doesn't want to let go and tries very hard to still pretend to be angry at him. It was obvious for Hajime, but he pretended not to notice it and Hajime was still soothing Myuu.

At that time, a faint quarrel finally reached their ears. A woman's voice and of some men. Judging by the voice, the female seems to be in a pinch. Hajime and Yue look at each other and peek into the alley where the voice was heard.

[What a template is this....] (TL: Probably meant stereotype, but has written template.)

[.....Enemy of women, won't be forgiven.]

Like you can imagine it, some men were trying to forcefully pick-up a girl.

Hajime twisted his head while holding Myuu and thinking what to do. The enemy's strength wasn't very big. Judging from their postures, they only seemed like small punks. It wouldn't be a big deal, even if they were armed.

Their potential was analyzed (・・・・・・・・・) and Yue on his side plunged forward to the punks.

They have turned towards Yue as they have realized that she approaches them and were momentarily stunned by her pretty face and were smiling, however immediately they smiles became vulgar. Their eyes were seeing new prey.

Because of their glances, Hajime got angry. However, before he was able to able to something, Yue got in between the pick-up guys in a moment.

In addition, in only a moment, their joints made a “bekibaki” (breaking) sound and Yue got control of them immediately.

Believe it or not, the guys were beaten up without a chance to speak. They fell on the ground while screaming in pain after getting hit.

Yue didn’t show any mercy and the girl’s face became stiff and Yue went back to Hajime immediately. And they began walking home again. Not even three minutes had passed after the commotion. A short-term battle, that reminded of a certain space hero. (TL: Don’t know the reference.)

[Yue-neechan is strong~! How coool~!]

[....N, Myuu will be trained when you grow up.]

Myuu’s future is a bit worrisome. Myuu praises Yue, however Hajime feels irritated as he wasn’t able to do anything as a man. Even with his troubled look, he fell in love again with his lover.

(Huh? Was Yue so strong in close combat? Moreover, why was I able to analyze their strength.....)

While holding Myuu with his right hand, Hajime unconsciously puts his other hand to his thigh. And there, his hand is searching for something. However, that “Something” is not there and he feels some kind of discomfort.

At night.

After dinner and taking a bath, Hajime threw himself onto his bed. His hair was not dry yet, and he had begun brooding over something.

He had a strange feeling. It should be his unchanging daily life.....but his instincts say something like [This is wrong!] and his happy daylie life got denied. [Wake up!] it said.

Hajime scratched his head while being irritated.

At that time, knocking-sounds unexpectedly sounds.

[.....Hajime?]

[Aa, yeah I’m here.]

Yue opened the door and entered the room.

In a negligee. White sexy arms and feet were shown. Yue came closer to Hajime and noticed that he had wet hair and scolded him! While having a scolding gaze, she arrived at his bed.

In addition, she began to dry off Hajime's hair while he was lying on the bed.

[N.....It's dry now. It's bad to leave it wet. You'll catch a cold.]

[You are right, Thank you, Yue.]

[Nn.]

Hajime was thanking her and Yue hugged him from behind.

And she buries her face in Hajime's neck like a spoiled child. Both of her arms invade Hajime's clothes from the back and start to caress Hajime's chest. After Remia picks up Myuu, Yue becomes a spoiled child.

As long as Myuu is there, they can't be spend much time as lovers, so some fault lies in that. When there are holidays, Yue is sulking pretty much as he cares for Myuu too much. It's inevitable to some degree, however her desire to monopolize him is strong.

(She is stronger than any thugs, full of love and kindness, she loves me and is the best girlfriend there is. .....I am satisfied with this everyday life. I should feel blessed. Yet.... Why am i dissatisfied) What is wrong? Why is there a "moyamoya"-feeling in my chest?)

While feeling the softness and the temperature of Yue's body, Hajime tries to ignore the uneasiness which swells up. To such a Hajime Yue whispers something to his ears.

[.....Everything is fine. Do not worry. I'll make Hajime happy.]

[Yue.....]

[.....Look only at me. Everything is fine, i am here. Hajime's ideal. Forever at your side.]

[.....]

While melting in such a sweet whispering, Hajimes consciousness began to fade. At this rate, how sweet would it be to sleep while being spoiled by Yue.

(That's right. Yue is here. There isn't anything more important. ...There shouldn't be. I don't need anything else. Even if i would need to throw everything away..... My ideal lover is besides me. Only that.....)

His consciousness is breaking off. Losing strength in his body, without change his self is being comfortable soaked in warm feelings.

Then, while all his dissatisfaction are on the verge of disappearing,

——I defend Yue, Yue defends me. With that we are the strongest. We'll defeat everything and overcome the world. (TL: He starts speaking here with "Ore" again.)

Suddenly, strange words appear in his mind. Hajime consciousness surfaces rapidly and he opens his eyes wide.

——Aa~, If you like, Yue can come too?

His voices echoes again. It was the promise of taking Yue back to his home.

Afterwards Yue smiled. They go back to his home together. While he said that she had smiled like a blooming flower. She was happy from the bottom of her hearth.

If you think of it, when Hajime saw that for the first time, he was probably done in.

Also, the oath was set on the day of departure after passing life or death situations and stepping into the world. They vow to protect each other, defeat everything that stands in their way and go to Hajime's hometown together.

His instincts tell him that. Immediately before he his consciousness fades he remembers the important oath embraces himself and "Something about seeing Yue" and stands up.

(.....Ideal Lover? Sweet, gentle world? I'm stupid (･･･)!)

Hajime covered his eyes and gritted his teeth to the very limit. If he did not do so, he wouldn't be able to forgive himself. (TL: He would start crying.)

(.....I forgot the promise. Was almost blinded by this world. I'm disgusted about myself.)

Hajime hit his cheek with his full strength for punishment. Though Yue is surprised by the sudden action of Hajime and extents her hand,

Bashi!

It was deflected by Hajime's hand.

Yue wraps her hand with her other hand with a sad expression. With the expression, which was probably produced in the great labyrinth, Hajime [....Don't kid with me] spat out an abuse.

[.....Hajime, what's wrong?]

Yue's question was disregarded and Hajime turned a sharp glance towards Yue like he was another person.

[Well, Yue. Yue is important for me. I don't need anything besides her.]

[.....Hajime, I am happy.]

Though Yue is confused by Hajime's sudden words, her expression softens up immediately. However, contrary to the words, Hajime's gaze remains sharp.

[That why, If I tell you to cut down or cast away someone else, will you do it?]

[If Hajime really wishes for that.]

Yue nods to Hajimes words without hesitation.

[Even if it were Shia, Kaori, Tio or even Myuu?]

[If Hajime wishes for that.]

Almost like embodying Hajime's ideal Yue and carrying out all of Hajimes wishes. To such a girlfriend, rather than being happy about it, he shows an irritated expression. He mutters in a small voice [I was drawn in

by that, impossible.....]

And, with a sharp glance he spits out words.

[Is that so.....I understand, bastard.]

In the moment when he declared Yue as an imitation, Hajime's appearance changed. From the appearance of a japanese with black hair, to a boy with gray hair and an eyepatch.

[Crap. I really fell into the trap just like that.....That's why you shouldn't be careless in a great labyrinth.....Better said, the one who created Haltina is one of a fella.] (TL: Just checked, "Haltina" should be read "Harz"-ina (Harutsuina) which means "amber", but i'll leave it Haltina as it was used in earlier chapers)

Yue walks up to the cursing Hajime. And she reaches out to Hajime with a clinging expression.

[.....Stay here? If Hajime stays here he will be happy.]

[Shut up, fake. Don't call my name so familiarly.]

[.....Why? I'm Yue. Hajime's lover. Ideal lover. With what are you dissatisfied.]

[With everything you idiot. Doing everything I want, monopolizing me, my ideal lover? That's only a doll. I don't have the hobby of playing with dolls.]

Hajime wants to get out of this space already and spits out to Yue that she's a fake.

[.....Wrong. I'm not a doll. I have all the personality of Hajime's ideal lover. That's why, stay here. Everything that Hajime wants will be like his ideal. I'll always stay by his side.]

Apparently, it doesn't seem to be an ordinary fake. The world was also produced by the memory and also the characters were read with the transition/teleportation. There, IF there would be something more impossible "Maybe, if it's that way"-created, an even more ideal world would be created.

Certainly, with the pain tasted in hell, and with what may stand before them in the future, that it would be ideal to live with Yue and the other in the peaceful Japan.

However,

[It's beyond help. It couldn't be even more wrong.]

Hajime says it like it was like a trivial matter! A red light emits from his body. The clear red magic is spread though the world in a moment and isn't stopping and raising its density by a dreadful amount.

As long as this is a trial, when clearing the conditions, it is possible to escape it, but he can't help it and uses his whole strength. The point is, he's venting his anger.

[.....Why?]

It should be his ideal word, so Yue asks Hajime why he's rejecting it. Hajime continues to discharge his magic power and turns his glare to the fake.

[Don't "Why?"-shit me. It's a simple story. My ideal Yue is not such garbage. This real one exceeds my ideals by far. The real Yue is more attractive than a Yue which doesn't exist!]

Hajime pours out magic to the very limit and remembers the worthless feeling again, lets out a loud roar and pours even more magic out and the space finally begins to crack.

While the worlds cracking it make a "bikibeki"-sound and expands a bit, however the magic is not strong enough and it's already exhausted. However, there is still a stupid method left as he doesn't want to yield to this space. That's because he's pretty stubborn.

Hajime takes out a magic stone out from his stock and uses "Limit Break". He raised his magic power in one go.

[Those guys are always like this. They always trample on my ideals and try to end them! To tie us with them! Strongly! It won't go like those troublesome guys want to! Still, for this reason, I will be the strongest!]

The world is dyed crimson red. Like piercing the heavens, a bright red torrent bursts out.

And,

Bariiiiiiiiiin!!

The world was broken.

Fragments of the world are fluttered like glass in the air. It shines like diamond dust.

At the end of its life, like sparking, the imitation Yue lets out a smile in the broken world. It wasn't like Yue's smile. It was like..... someone else's smile.

Hajime had an idea what that was, however his consciousness began to fade rapidly and he wasn't able to point that out.

[.....You passed. With only being nice you don't stand a chance. There is no sense in only giving. Even if it's hard or painful, only what was piled up in reality can make you happy. Don't forget that.]

It was a voice different from Yue's. It's more manly than feminine. However, it was a very gentle voice.

Hajime at the end of his consciousness cannot help it and raises his voice.

[None of your bussiness.....But, I'll remember it.]

The person was already hard to see, nonetheless still raised a gentle smile at the end.....it felt just like that.

Chapter 128 : Immediate Awakening

* * *

Hajime felt a dry,cold texture on the back of his head. This feeling rapidly brought Hajime's dozing consciousness back to reality.

[.....Where is.....]

He shook his head to clear it, then quickly stood up and checked his surroundings.

Without any sources of light it was pitch-black. However, since Hajime had his 'Night Vision' the darkness didn't hinder his sight.

As a result, a quick look around told him that he was in a cave similar to the large tree they had entered before he lost consciousness. However he quickly realised that it was much larger.

There was one distinct difference though It was a domed, circular space, filled with transparent tan coloured, oblong objects that gave off a clean feeling. They were regularly spaced throughout the domed area.

Judging from the size, each could fit a person inside.

Hajime thought they looked exactly like coffins.

The empty space Hajime had woken up in was lined up with these tan coffins.

Hajime looked around, but there was nothing in the center of the dome and there didn't seem to be any kind of exit in the surroundings.

He turned his gaze back onto one of the coffins lined up in a row and after hesitating slightly, stepped up beside.

[This is.....just like amber.]

Then Hajime breath caught when he realised Shia was inside the amber.

Hajime thought the sleeping Shia inside the transparent coffin looked just like an ancient insect trapped in amber.

He briefly used 'Sign Perception' to check Shia's status and was able to sense a steady pulse.

He was able to keep himself calm by recalling when he came to. Hajime was guessing that he had also been encased in amber shortly before he woke up.

There were a total of nine amber coffins enshrined in the room. He suspected that if he checked all of them he would find his other party members trapped inside. They had most likely been imprisoned in the amber after they had entered the hollow of the pseudo-treant.

They were all probably ensnared in appealing dreamlike worlds just as he had been. If they manage to escape from that dream world then it is likely that they will be freed from the amber right in front of Hajime's eyes.

As Hajime found and stared into the amber imprisoning Yue he concluded that there was at least one good thing about the current situation.

[Well, at any rate it's good that Yue and Tio are back in their bodies. Turning them back myself.....may have been a problem.]

Just as Hajime had said, inside two of the amber coffins were Yue and Tio, and not in their goblin forms but their usual, beautiful, bodies. They were probably returned to their original selves when the previous stage was cleared.
Personally Hajime was glad. He would have loved her either way, but the original Yue was the best.

Hajime lowered himself down beside Yue and stretch his hand out towards his beloved's face. Of course the amber got in the way, but he still moved his hand as if to caress her face.

[Come back soon, Yue. I want to hear your voice.....]

For a moment the dangerous thought of breaking the amber by force crossed his mind, but if he did break her free he was worried that it might cause the trial to end in failure, so he held back the urge.

[.....Yue in a blazer.....was dangerous. Shia too....how was dream me able to retain his reason?....Alright, I'll have you wear it once we've returned to Japan.]

As Hajime was caught up in these stupid thoughts the amber began to emit a faint light.

Hajime withdrew his hand and took a step back while watching the change.

As the light grew stronger the amber began to melt from the outside inwards. As the amber melted it would trickle down the side and be absorbed into the ground.

Within 5 minutes the amber covering Yue had completely dissipated.

Hajime confirmed Yue was breathing from the rising and falling of her chest. With that his remaining tension dissolved and he gently gathered her up in his arms.

It wasn't clear whether he didn't want to leave her lying down on the ground, or perhaps more likely, he just wanted to hold her.

Yue's long eyelashes began to quiver as Hajime gently brushed some of her hair away from her face while he cradled her in his arms like a child.

Yue slowly opened her eyes.

[Yue....how are you feeling?]

[.....N, Hajime?]

[Aah, it's me.]

Yue still seemed to be a little dazed, but her gaze didn't wander away from Hajime for even a moment.

Once her consciousness had completely returned she stared at Hajime carefully.

[...Is it.....the real Hajime?]

[Haha, I understand why you would ask, but Yue must decide for herself. Is the me before Yue right now real, or a fake?]

There was most likely an imposter Hajime in the dream Yue saw,but Hajime was happy to let Yue judge for herself. He was sure that she would be able to tell the difference between the real him and the fantasy she had seen.

[By the way, right now I am sure that the Yue in my arms is the real one.]

Hajime's words left Yue staring at him with a blank expression for a moment, but she quickly grasped his meaning and smiled.

Hajime was telling her that there had also been an imitation of Yue in his dream, and that he was glad that she too had dreamed of him in her ideal world.

The corner of Yue's eyes lowered and her mouth arced to form a truly delightful smile.

[……How can you tell?]

Yue already knew the answer, but she still wanted to hear him say it. Even if their hearts understood each other, it was still a wonderful thing to hear your beloved say the words out loud.

Once again, Hajime knew exactly how Yue felt. So he shrugged his shoulders and answered casually.

[I don't feel any uneasiness…..deep inside of me. It's like my soul is whispering to me "the one in your arms is your 'special one'"]

[Fufu…..Me too. Deep inside something is telling me that the person I am embracing now is Hajime. … …Forget I asked?]

[Maa, you were still half asleep.]

Yue eyes softened as Hajime once again shrugged his shoulders, then she suddenly wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him forcefully.

—-Gohon! (TL: *cough*)

[……What was I like in your dream?]

[My school's blazer looked so good on you that I could die.]

Yue could now guess what kind of world Hajime had seen, but the unexpected answer was so amusing that Yue couldn't stop her small voice from ringing out with laughter when she heard it..

[...I'll wear it for you someday.]

[That's something to look forward to. How was it for you?]

Uuohon!

Yue buries her face into Hajime's neck. As he was enjoying the repeated pecks of her lips against his neck Hajime asked her about her dream too.

[.....The ceremonial clothes and throne suited you so well I could almost die.]

[Sorry.....Ceremonial clothes aside, a throne is impossible. Or rather, why a throne?]

[Kufufu....In my dream I was an Empress...and we had 12 children.]

[Just how far did you go in your dream!? A dozen is too many!]

Hajime unintentionally drew himself back from Yue and stared at her in shock. Yue stared at Hajime with a seductive look and licked her glossy lips still wet from the kiss.

This seductive look caused Hajime's breath catch and made his heart to start racing. The fierce spirit that could withstand the attacks of any monster was easily shaken.

[.....Fufu, I have high expectations.]

[.....As expected, I won't be able to win against Yue in my whole life.]

—-Gohotsuehhon! (Editor: *choke* *sob*? TL: YES, NOT MY NOTE!!!! Btw. is more like *hardcore cough*)

Hajime gave a roguish smile while staring up towards the sky, the light of seriousness in Yue's eyes had forced him to give in.

Once again he was sure, 'this is my Yue'.

Returning to the excitement from before, Hajime cupped the side of Yue's cheek with one hand before sliding it down to her waist and embracing her. Yue, sensing that Hajime wanted the same thing as her, closed her eyes and lifted her lips towards his.

Her rose-coloured cheeks were irresistibly cute, and her vibrant tongue, visible through her opened and bewitching lips, was extremely captivating. There was no more need for words as the two drew closer, each wanting the others lips. They continued to draw closer. 10 centimetres.....5 centimetres....and when the distance reached 0...

[Ugottsukeetsuehengohotsugahatsutsutobuetsukushoitsu!!!!] (TL: Gibberish for me. Maybe somebody will get it right: ウゴッツクエッェヘンゴホッガハッツトブエックショイッ！！！！)

[—Aah?]

[—N?]

They were interrupted by a strange noise that was vaguely familiar. This time the unidentified sound had been close enough that they couldn't miss it anymore.
Yue and Hajime exchanged glances, then turned their heads towards the sound. There they saw...

[Uuu *gusu*, whatever....I can see I'm not wanted....even though I did my best to come back.....and then suddenly that atmosphere.....tried to get attention by clearing my throat, but.....uuuu *gusu*...reality is always so cruel....uuu~.]
(TL: Left it *gusu* rather than translating it. It just means crying, bawling or something like that.)

They were greeted with the pitiful sight of Shia, struggling to hold back her tears as her rabbit ears drooped. The drops of moisture trickling out from the corner of her eyes stirred up quite a bit of pity.

It would seem that Shia had woken up shortly after Yue, unfortunately they had been too caught up in their own reunion to notice.

Hajime and Yue quickly began to soothe the utterly miserable Shia.

Hajime drew Shia close and tightly embraced her, and after a while the lonely rabbit's usual spirit began to return. Soon both her rabbit ears and cheeks were twitching with delight, while her rabbit tail flapped about happily.

[Un, as I thought, Shia must have rabbit ears. It's the rabbit ears that make her who she is, she just isn't Shia without them. Better put, it's that Shia existence is defined by her rabbit ears.]

[No, I can't understand that! Rabbit ears are not all that I am... but you really seem happy to see them Hajime-san. Did something happen in your dream?]

[Aah~, do I? The Shia in my dream didn't have any rabbit ears, she was just an ordinary girl.]

[.....Is that even Shia?]

[Ano, Yue-san? It's true that my rabbit ears are part of my identity, but I would still be Shia without them you know?]

Shia was beginning to feel a vague sense of unease from their reactions.

Perhaps they are only nice to me because they like my rabbit ears?

Hajime and Yue quickly began to reassure Shia once they saw her worried expression and soon changed the topic to asking her what she had seen in her dream.
It seems that she dreamt of a world where the Haulia tribe weren't exiled and hunted, and she was able to live happily together with Yue and Hajime.

Yue explained hers again as well. It seems that in her dream she was never betrayed and her former country didn't fall to ruin. She had received Hajime as her groom and they had started a family together.

[As for me, my world was one where I was living a happy life with Yue, Shia & the others without ever having been summoned to this world. It basically rewrote the great suffering I experienced in the past but included the happiness of now.]

[I see... That certainly would be an ideal world in a certain sense]

[.....How did Shia escape?]

Shia answered the question on how she escaped from her dream world with a big smile and a laugh.

[It was obviously because I couldn't deny my current self even if I wanted to.]

[...I see]

Yue nodded with a convinced look while Hajime nodded with a gentle look in his eyes.

In her dream Shia must have remained as her weak self from the past, but she was unable to accept it.

[In the dream I met Hajime-san and the others before my family were attacked. We were all living together and I was fine with just being protected. But something felt wrong! It was if my heart was screaming at me 'there is no way you can stand beside them with a way of life that embraces weakness'. The Hajime-san who was telling me he would protect me and the Yue-san who was telling me not to worry... were certainly sweet and gentle, pleasant even, but the more they told me that the more my discomfort grew... By the time I noticed it, I had already decided to fight by the side of Hajime-san and the others.]

[So that's how you got back...]

[Hai! It is because instead of watching your backs, I want to stand beside you both now and in the future. Even if it ends up being a path filled with hardships and pain.]

While watching Shia grin happily Hajime became lost in thought. Shia had really become strong. The first time they had met.....he had tried to drive her away as hard as he could... Now it wasn't possible for him to reject her, all thanks to her love for Hajime and her strong desire to be an equal part of their group.

A feeling of affection for Shia, different from the one he felt for Yue,

welled up inside Hajime. He pulled her head towards his chest and began patting her gently.

Standing at their side, Yue was able to guess Hajime feelings from the affectionate face he was making.

[Fue, umm, Hajime-san?]

[Maa, how should i say it?... welcome back, Shia. You did well.]

[Ah... Yes, I'm back...]

'The place where you belong is by my side' is what Shia felt Hajime meant when she heard him say 'welcome back'. For a short while it left her feeling a little giddy and embarrassed, but soon the happiest smile surfaced on her face and she clung onto Hajime tightly.

As usual, Hajime had Yue cuddled up under his right arm and Shia embraced under the left arm as they all discussed their dreams, and as they were chatting another one of the amber prisons began to give off a faint light. Once again, one of their companions was about to break out of their prison of sweet temptation.

[If I'm not mistaken, that amber is...]

Hajime, recalling who was in that prison, muttered softly. Yue increased the intensity of her magical light so they could better see the escapee. As the light grew brighter...

[Mugaa! Master's scorn is not such a half-hearted thing as that–! If you expect to satisfy me you better train harder before coming back again!]

[[[.....]]]

The person waving her fist in the air and saying such things immediately after waking up was, of course, none other than Tio.

Able to guess the contents of Tio's dream just from her remark, they all reflexively directed silent gazes of scorn at her. Hajime, who was spoken of in such a way, eyes especially looked as if they were staring at trash.

Feeling his gaze, all of the muscles in Tio's body began to quiver. Then, turning around with an excited expression on her face, she was greeted

with the cold gazes of Hajime's group and started to tremble even more. After a moment she started running towards Hajime like a lost dog towards its owner, an expression of ecstasy on her face.

[Master~ This one just got back now~! Shower mistress with your love~!](TL note: She was actually saying love me or favour me, but i decided to go along with this instead.)

Even after being turned into a Goblin she was still the same as always. Tio jumped towards Hajime with a divers pose.

Dopan!!

[Gafu-!]

Hajime silently drew Donner and shot Tio mid jump, causing her to perform a triple flip in the air before landing facedown on the ground. He then stepped onto her back and trampled her further into the ground with his feet, causing her to start making screams heavily mixed with panting noises.

[This worthless dragon! Just what the heck did she have me do in her dream?]

[This is it! This is what this one missed! Even though this one did her best to return from that fake world, this one is rewarded by being shot and trampled underfoot, with eyes that look at this one as if seeing trash! The mildness of that fake was nothing compared to this exquisite pain! This is how mistress' one and only master does things! More! Hurt this one more~!]

[...Just die, you pervert.]

[Abababababababah]

Hajime, unable to listen to her outcries anymore, snapped and invoked 'Thunder Clad'. Tio, unable to withstand it, arched backwards before exhausting her strength and collapsing back onto the ground while giving off white smoke.

However, despite the ordeal, the expression of Tio's face was one of

perverted ecstasy.

She looked truly happy, which left Hajime feeling even more repulsed.

Soon after that Tio revived herself without any appearance of having suffered any damage at all. Then, though no one asked and they all refused to listen, she zealously talked at length about how unbecoming a master the Hajime in her dream was.

The fake world should be designed to show the specific individual a sweet fantasy that would leave them trapped inside their dreams.

Assuming that is true, Tio being able to escape due to feeling unsatisfied is an extremely strange story. It's an unpleasant thought, but it seems that Tio was able to escape because the Great Dungeon was unable to gauge her pervertedness.It had been able to read that Hajime is Tio's loved one, and that Tio likes sexual oppression, but it seems it wasn't able to understand how she interpreted 'punishment' and 'reward'.

Now, the Great Dungeon, who's trap had easily been escaped and was being spoken ill of after having done it's best to create Tio's ideal master, seemed kind of pitiable.

Haltina must never have expected this kind of pervert would come to challenger it.

In his mind Hajime paid his respects to Haltina while imagining them wearily crumbling into dust.

While they were all caught up in this another one of the amber prisons begun to shine. It would seem the next one to escape would be Kaori.

Hajime and the others approached the side of her amber shortly before she opened her eyes. At first she seemed to be panting faintly, but when she saw Hajime and the others gathered around her she took a deep breath in relief. However, the moment her eyes met with Hajime's her faced flushed a boiling red and she retreated until her back hit the wall.

Hajime, who had never been avoided by Kaori before, was more confused than surprised. He turned his gaze to Yue and the others as if to ask what happened. Kaori, noticing Hajime's confusion, quickly

attempted to resolve the misunderstanding.

[Oh...! It's not like that Hajime-kun! Just now that is, a little, how should I say it... Anyway it's not like that. I wasn't avoiding you...]

[Ahh~ No, it's not a problem... I guess it must have something to do with your dream... Just what was it that you saw...?]

[Eh? Ah, what... you ask? That's... ....Awwaaah]

Kaori tried to answer the question asked by the wryly smiling Hajime, but wasn't able to give a coherent answer. Her cheeks started blushing more and more until she eventually covered her face with both hands and started to moan.

The girls were able to get the gist of her dream from her reaction and each displayed a different response. Tio was going [Hohou~] while grinning as if she found something extremely interesting. Shia was muttering [...Kaori-san tteba] while blushing and intermittently averting her eyes. And as for Yue... she attacked her with sharp words while looking at her with scornful eyes.

[...Kaori, you closet pervert]

Kaori trembled and tried to make excuses for her still beet-red face.

[I...I am not a closet pervert! D..don't say such weird things!]

[...then, tell us what kind of dream you had.]

[Th..that's...It..it was... just a repetitive everyday life]

[...to say you attacked Hajime on daily basis...]

[I...I didn't attack! I just pushed him down a little... after that Hajime-kun himself... waaah!]

[...Kaori is banned from getting close to Hajime. She's too dangerous.]

[I..I'm not dangerous! Hajime-kun she's wrong, you know? I wouldn't attack Hajime-kun, you know?]

[Haa... yes, yes... I understand.]

[Uu~~]

It would seem all sorts of things happened with Hajime while Kaori was in her dream. Although she was able to shake off the temptation and return... it seems she indulged in quite the bittersweet springtime of her youth before she returned.

Kaori kept blushing and stealing glances at Hajime. It seems that this innocent reaction stirred up the sadist in Yue, who started trying to further stimulating Kaori by whispering something into her ear.

Kaori covered her ears and started shaking her head, trying to escape from Yue's tormenting whispers. It was like watching a pitiful mouse being toyed with by a playful cat.

[Maa, anyway, with this all our members are back.]

Shia released the tension from her shoulders upon hearing Hajime's words, then turned her gaze towards Kouki and the others.

[That's true. Then, what should we do about them?]

[Let's see... ...If it comes down to it we can just destroy the amber, but for now let's wait for them to break out on their own. If we interfere it'd probably render their efforts to challenge the Great Dungeon thus far pointless.

[How long do we wait?]

[Hmm... perhaps long enough for us to eat and take a little break? In my case, I snapped and destroyed my dream with brute force. I probably cleared it just fine....but I only have about ten percent of my magic left so I would like to rest and recover for a bit.

[.....Just what the heck were you thinking?]

Shia was directing an astonished gaze towards Hajime as she spoke. Their usual roles had been reversed and Hajime was wearing quite a bitter expression.

[Believe me, I am reflecting on my actions. I seem to have been unusually worked up since we entered this Dungeon.]

[Ahh~! That'd be because the Dungeon used Yue-san...]

[Maybe, but I can't use that as an excuse, you know, because in a sense it proves that it really is a weakness. It'll probably be difficult, but I am going to try and use this opportunity to overcome it.]

Shia directed an admiring gaze at the Hajime who was showing such an admirable attitude. Then, after throwing a sidelong glance at Yue, who was still busy teasing Kaori, and Tio, who was listening in and breathing roughly, Shia leaned in and whispered to Hajime.

[Ano, Hajime-san...]

[N?]

[Umm, that is...If what happened to Yue-san were to happen to me... would you also get angry like that?]

Shia was averting her gaze, but her rabbit ears were honed in on Hajime's direction. She wanted to know if Hajime would get angry for her sake, even if wasn't to the same extent as he did for Yue.

At first Hajime was going to brush her off as usual, but when he saw Shia peeking at him with wavering eyes he scratched his cheek and decided to answer her honestly this time.

[The reason I destroyed the dream wasn't just because of Yue. You were there too, but I... just couldn't be happy without the Shia I know.]

[Ah..... ehehe, is that so?]

Shia was waving her rabbit ears and tail around happily while wearing a delighted smile on her face. Upon seeing her happy expression Hajime's hand reached out naturally to feel them.

Soon after, Kaori, unable to take Yue's teasing anymore, clung onto Hajime in tears. Shia, who was still in an excessively good mood, begun to soothe Kaori while Yue puffed out her chest with satisfaction.
Tio....well let's leave her aside.

They decided to eat a meal while they waited for Kouki and the others, but even after 3 hours there was no sign of them escaping.

[It might be better to save them soon...]

[... ...n, right]

[It does seem like... we would be here for a long time if we keep waiting for them to get out on their own](Note by TL: Shia)

Both Yue and Shia voiced their agreement, thinking that it couldn't be helped. However Kaori quickly stepped in.

[Wouldn't it be alright to wait a little longer? Just a bit more? If it's Shizuku-chan and the others then they can surely...]

Since Kaori herself understood Shizuku and the others desperation better than anyone, one way or another she wanted them to capture the dungeon and receive the Age of Gods magic. A person's survival rate increases by leaps and bounds with even one Age of Gods magic. Kaori wanted them to get stronger so that they too could safely return to Japan.

The reason Hajime had allowed them to accompany him into the dungeon was so that he could use them as foot soldiers in the cases where apostles like Nointo appeared again. To further this plan he was hoping they would be able to obtain the Age of Gods magic here and then head out and defeat the other Great Dungeons on their own.

That's why, when he saw Kaori's pleading eyes, he shrugged his shoulders and decided to wait a little while longer. Kaori smiled happily when she saw Hajime agree and began to casually try to get closer to him, however she was immediately blocked just as casually by Yue.

As this was happening one of the ambers started to shine.

[That amber is...Shizuku-chan's!]

[Huh, as expected the fastest one was Yaegashi.]

[Fumu. Shizuku is level-headed after all](Tio)

Upon seeing the melting amber Kaori rushed over at full speed. Soon after Shizuku abruptly opened her eyes and began groaning in a soft voice as she tried to get up. Kaori reached over and supported her as Shizuku weakly raised herself out of the remains of the amber.

[Where am I...? ...Kaori?]

[Un, it's me, Shizuku-chan. Welcome back!]

[I see, I'm back, huh. Fuu, for some reason I'm feeling quite tired...]

Shizuku gave a heavy sigh as if she really was feeling tired, before shaking her head as if to clear it of some lingering thought. She then smiled at Kaori and returned her greeting with a warm [I'm back].

After Kaori and Shizuku had finished their happy reunion Hajime and others approached as well.

[You overslept quite a bit, but it's good that you were able to overcome it]

[Hah? Ah, Na..Nagumo-kun... Y..you're right. It's good to be back.]

For some reason the moment Hajime called out to her Shizuku's gaze began to wander aimlessly and she started to stutter.

Upon seeing Shizuku behave strangely Yue and the others became puzzled. Shizuku cleared her throat as if to hide her unrest and turned her face away from them to conceal her slightly reddened cheeks.

[...seems Kouki and others are taking their time, huh?]

[Un, we came back several hours ago, but since then Shizuku-chan is the first one to escape.]

[Is that so? They came up with a troubling trial I guess. Well, it can't be helped. While saying so, it seems I made you wait quite a bit. I guess I should say I am sorry?]

[Don't worry about it, Shizuku-san. Congratulations on your escape. ... and... i'd like to ask you a tiny question, but...]

[Thank you Shia. It's alright, what might it be about?]

Shizuku replied to Shia with a smile that was using all of her reserves of composure. She had gotten a bad feeling about Shia's question right away.

However, it seems the one who would be asking the question wouldn't be Shia, but rather Yue, who had somehow gotten beside Shizuku without

anyone noticing.

[.....]

[Wh..what is it?]

[.....]

[Umm, looking at me silently like that makes me feel uncomfortable... ... Yue?]

For some reason Yue was starting into Shizuku's eyes from beside her. Shizuku was desperately trying to suppress the feeling of unease that Yue's exquisite, doll-like, deadpan face was stirring inside her.

Finally, Yue asked a question with a tone that suggested she was confirming something she already knew.

[...Shizuku...what kind of dream was it?]

[Eh? What kind you say? It was an ordinary dream. There was nothing unusual. Yes, it was a really plain, ordinary dream]

[...ordinary? Who was in it?]

[Who you say? ...Everyone. Everyone was there]

[... ... I see]

Shizuku answered firmly while looking straight into Yue's eyes, as if to show that she wasn't disturbed one bit. Although this was her intention, she didn't realise that her extremely abstract answers had given away the state of affairs in her heart.

Yue, of course, had noticed it, as had the others. However Shizuku was giving off such a strong aura implying she didn't want to talk about it that they decided to leave it be for now.

When Yue and the others backed off Shizuku appeared openly relieved.

With the inquisition finished, they guided the tired Shizuku to the centre of the room and begun to prepare tea. As she was being lead to join the impromptu tea time, Shizuku couldn't help muttering to herself.

[... ...Me being a princess is impossible... ...and more importantly, why

wasn't the prince Kouki or Ryutarou?... ... murmur...]

Though there wasn't anyone close enough to hear her.

Several hours later Shizuku finished resting and had completely recovered from her mental fatigue. Having decided they couldn't wait any longer, they were now preparing to force the breakout of Kouki, Ryutarou and Suzu.

Hajime or Yue could've easily been able to destroy the amber, but in their party was someone who had a skill that was much better suited for the job.

[Now then Kaori, it's all yours. Try not to 'decompose' their bodies.]

[Un, it's alright. Outside of real battle there's no need to worry about the control anymore.]

After giving her reply to Hajime, Kaori abruptly put her hand on the nearest amber and began to release her maryoku (magic) as if to permeate it. Pale, silvery, magic rays coloured the room in moonlit brilliance as Kaori's maryoku delicately coiled around and spread itself evenly throughout the remaining amber prisons.

['Decompose.']

There was no need to chant, but since it helped to focus the image in her mind she recited it on purpose. Immediately after, the amber surrounding Kouki and others started to crumble. it looked more like it was decaying than melting, the particles that became too small for the eyes to see looked as if they were vanishing into thin air.

Within 3 minutes all the amber had completely decomposed and vanished into thin air. Concerned over the aftereffects of being forcibly released from their trials, Shizuku and Kaori anxiously began to check the condition of Kouki and the others.

However it seemed it was an unnecessary fear.

[.....Huh? Wha, Kaori? Shizuku? This is? But I was... with you two...]

[N, ah? What is this place? I thought I was.....]

[Eh? No way... Eri was... ...Eri...]

All three of them woke up suddenly, as if they had never been asleep.

Because they had suddenly awoken from their pleasant dreams to find themselves in a dimly lit cave it seems their senses had been thrown into confusion. Suzu was especially distraught, reaching her grasping hand out towards empty space. It was obvious from her words who she was reaching out for. Thinking about what kind of dream she must have been having, it is understandable why she wasn't able to wake herself up from it.

Both Kaori and Shizuku made sympathetic expressions when they saw Suzu's sad state. It wasn't surprising that the severe betrayal had left her wounded deeply. Though she is always laughing and smiling, even now that wound must be bleeding beneath the surface.

The trio slowly become silent as they sorrowfully started to realise that what they had been seeing was only a dream. However, they all handled the realisation differently. Ryutarou, even though he continues to give off a dejected feeling, abruptly scratches his head with an embarrassed expression while saying [Guess it can't be helped]. Kouki just chewed his lips with a vexed expression. While Suzu quickly forced a smile onto her face in an attempt to deceive them.

Since they couldn't bare to watch her like this, both Kaori and Shizuku immediately pulled Suzu into a tight hug.

Just as Hajime was about to call out to them, a magic circle appeared in the centre of the room.

It would appear that when everyone escapes from the amber they are forcibly sent on to the next stage. Ryutarou aside, Kouki and Suzu are still unstable. Hajime would've preferred to let them recover first, but... it appears that wasn't going to be possible.

[Amanogawa, Taniguchi, this is no time for you to be caught up in your thoughts, get ready. If you don't, all your dreams really will fall apart.]

[tte... ... Aah, I know.]

[U..un. Right!]

The next instant the magic circle's light burst forth and filled the view of Hajime and the others.

Chapter 129 : Ordeal of Pleasure

As always, this is a not a direct translation, but a rewrite on my interpretation of the MTLs. All credit goes to the original author (Chuuni Suki)

* * *

Hajime and the rest reappeared in the same forest of trees that they had left from.

However, it was too soon to start celebrating just yet. The area was vast, with trees stretching as far as the eye could see, giving Hajime no clue on which direction to head.

In many ways it resembled the tree levels in the Orcus Labyrinth, a forest somehow existing underground. Most of the trees appeared to be about the same height, but one tree in the distance seemed to tower over the rest. Hajime guessed that was their next destination.

“It looks like everyone is here.”

Hajime carefully watched the other members of the group with a squint. He had feared that the transportation circle would have split them up or put them into some new challenge, but it appeared like his worries were unfounded.

“….Hajime, any fakes?” Yue inquired.

“No, everyone seems okay. My eyes tell me that everyone is real.”

“It’s okay if Hajime-san says so.” Shia gives out a look of confidence.

Hajime wished Shia would be more careful in case he himself was the fake. However, he reasoned that Yue would be able to tell if Hajime was a fake and warn Shia, if that situation arouse.

Watching the dense forest ahead, Hajime gave the order for them to get moving. He glanced over his shoulder, examining the figure of Kouki and Suzu who wore shadows over their expressions.

Whatever Suzu’s dream had been, it seem to have hurt her deeply.

Hajime couldn't guess what Kouki had seen. No, whatever it was, it was enough that he didn't come back to reality. Shaking off the dream was too much of a shock. Those dreams seemed to cut the party as bad as any nightmare. It was a deep pain that they would never be able to completely escape from. Every member struggled to shake off the shock of those dreams and come back to reality.

However, they were in a labyrinth right now. They couldn't afford to lose their edge, or a single misstep could bring them to despair in a matter of seconds. The silence seemed to drag on forever.

"Suzu, Koaki, Are you just going to give up?" Hajime breaks the silence harshly.

"Like we have a choice!"

"Eh? What do you mean by that?'

Hajime stared down the two with piercing eyes. The sharp-tempered Ryuutaro raised his eyebrows in anger at Hajime's harsh words, but Hajime continued to speak before he could say anything.

"This is one of the great labyrinths. Death is merely a step ahead. Death is around every corner, just a second away. If you can't concentrate, then just give up here. Die in vain."

"Just wait for a moment there..."

"Even if you forgive yourself, that doesn't change the fact that you were unable to clear the trial from before. You can't change that. However, you could at least have the determination to rise to all the remaining challenges as necessary. You don't see it now, but someone who has no spirit is worse than a burden to the rest of us."

"... I,"

"I can open a gateway outside the labyrinth for you to flee. Either proceed or give up, but I won't allow you to continue like this."

Silence wrapped around the group. Kouki clinched his teeth in a desperate attempt to suppress indignation. However, after what Hajime

had said to the group, he wasn't surprised that Kouki was angry.

The group had realized their failure. They had let their attention slip, unconsciously assuming things would turn out okay because Hajime was there to pick up the slack. Even though they were looking to become stronger than Hajime, Kouki's group had depended on him to get through the middle section of the labyrinth. They were supposed to beat the labyrinth on their own, yet their dependence on Hajime made them angry at themselves.

However, they were afraid to vent their anger here, as Hajime waited for an answer. Kouki took deep breaths, attempting to discharge his anger with fresh air.

"Nagumo, We're okay now. We can keep going!" Suzu declared.

Hajime gave Suzu a nod, the mood immediately turning lighter. For a moment, Suzu trembled at a look from Hajime's eyes, but then gave Hajime a decisive nod.

"If Suzu can keep going. That's enough for me!" Kouki speaks up.

"Is that so? If you're good now, then focus on your surroundings." Hajime responded and just as quickly started walking again.

Ryuutaro clapped Kouki on the shoulder hard as he stared at the Hajime's back. Kouki knew Ryuutaro was trying to support him in a way only a childhood friend could and gave him a look of appreciation.

Even Kaori and Shizukuo seemed to be affected by the Suzu's encouragement and picked up their steps, taking either side of Suzu for support.

Hajime headed straight towards the trees he had identified earlier.

The area was quiet; there wasn't even a sound of crickets. Even the wind wasn't blowing, so when Hajime brushed by a branch the noise seemed to echo in the silence.

"Hmmm... this is a somewhat unpleasant feeling."

"Yeah, it's the same feeling like when we were in Orcus Labyrinth, right

before the ambush." Kouki responds.

"For sure. But no signs of demons."

Everyone's eyes were leery with tension. Tio had her brows furrowed. Kaori and Shizuku shivered as they remembered the demon ambush, the demon woman toying with them.

"I sent some spider-golems ahead and they haven't detected anything. I suspect we can continue without any incidents. But if it'd make you feel better, we can burn the whole forest down."

"Nagumo... I don't know how to say this, but sometimes your ideas scare me." Ryuutaro Tsukkomi'd.

"I learned to think this way in the hell of the abyss. I'm alive today because of it. I didn't have a barrier maker like Suzu to protect me." Hajime responded seriously.

Turning everything to ash would leave nowhere for anything to hide. Although it would probably be a little dangerous if the surrounding area was turned to flames.

It looked like Hajime wasn't able to persuade the other members. Instead, he removed Getsurin and several cross bits from his "treasure room", just to be safe.

No one thought they would regret stopping Hajime. They didn't know what would happen if they let Hajime carpet bomb the entire place. In particular, the way out might disappear.

"... Is it? Rain?"

"Looks like it, it's starting to trickle down."

Kouki frowned at the feeling of moisture from overhead. Suzu agreed as she wiped off her hand. They shuttered at the seemingly impossible phenomenon as their eyes met with the others in the group.

"Tsch... Yue!" Hajime called out suddenly.

"It's a... holy shield!" Yue responded.

Hajime immediately reacts to the abnormality, calling Yue to create a barrier just in time.

Immediately after...

Zaaaaaaaaa...

The rain quickly turned into a torrent, striking Yue's barrier and sliding off the surface with a dorori sound. However, by all odds it couldn't be mere rain. The viscosity wasn't right, plus they were underground and there was no sky.

If they could figure out the trap. Were they being showered with sulfuric acid or some kind of toxin, or was it some kind of demon in disguise? This time, it seemed like the later.

"Nagumo-kun, it's all around us!"

Gazing calmly, even in this circumstance, Hajime carefully observes the outside of the barrier through the growing tension. The trees, grass, and land seemed to oozing out milky white stuff.

"Is it a slime or...? How were you able to conceal yourself? I can't even sense it with the magic eye."

"Nagumo! Our Feet!"

"It's through the barrier. Decomposition!"

While Hajime was contemplating a slime with the ability to avoid his notice, the milky slime had come up through the ground and surrounded their feet. Normally, the effect of "holy shield" is a spherical barrier deployed all the way to ground, but did not go into the ground. It seemed like the milky slime was lurking in the ground and was now attacking from the inside out.

To suddenly be attacked from the feet. Kaori hurried to invoke decomposition as the milky-white slime had already reached their knees.

The milky-white slime collapsed into smooth particles. As far as how slimes typically fight, they don't have much in the way of physical attacks, but they'll consume something and then melt it, making it

disappear completely.

“Oraa... It’s sticking to everything!”

Ryuutaro pounded a fist into the milky-white slime, which was expanding to try to cover him. The gauntlet on his hand transmitted the impact through the slime, ripping it apart as his fist strikes the inner wall of Yue’s barrier.

“You fool, Ryuutaro! You’re making a mess!”

“This brain muscle! You’re splashing it on me!”

“You? I’m sorry, I’m sorry!” Ryuutaro apologized.

“It feels so gross!” Shizuku complained.

Suzu and Shizuku raised voices of complaint as Ryuutaro attacked the slime. His attempt to punch the slime had splashed it all over the people beside him. (Translation Note: Imagine the girls all covered in sticky white stuff and you get the gist.)

“Oh no, Shizu, are you alright?”

“Yes, I’m okay, Kouki. These guys seem to die unexpectedly easy...” Suzu explained.

“Oh, no, I’ll help... erm... Oh, never mind!” Kouki turned away and blushed.

“?”

The monsters didn’t seem all that dangerous. In fact they were rather fragile from what you’d expect in a labyrinth. However, they had a bad side effect on the girls. Kouki couldn’t talk to her without averting his gaze.

They also had to avert their eyes quickly from Suzu because she wasn’t in a much better situation.

However, Suzu had a more suspicious face when she looked at Kouki and witnessed the slimes beginning to cover the outside of the barrier.

The effect seemed to disturb Kouki.

That was perhaps the nature of the milky-white slime. First it rained down on everyone. Then it got spread around, such as when Ryuutaro hit them. In other words, it was there to cover you in the turbid liquid.

What Kouki was reacting to.... to put it simply, the appearance of Suzu and Shizuku covered in slime looked really bad. However, the girls didn't seem to notice it themselves.

And Yue and the others were regrettably not an exception.

As the milky white slimes had breached the barrier, Yue attacked with a scaled-down version of "Saint Sever" while burning the pieces away with "blue dragon". However, she wasn't able to stop minute drops from falling down on her face, streaming cloudy liquid over her cheeks and neck.

Shia had also struck one of the milky-white slimes with Doryukken, which had been trying to cover her like Ryuutaro and Shizuku, splattering what was attached. However, because her power was higher it ended up in a shockwave unlike Ryuutaros. The amount was small, but still...

Tio had taken the blunt of Shia's attack, becoming accidently bathed in milky-white slime. Shia wasn't trying to aim for Tio, but it seemed like it was just bad luck. Tio was in front, and the effect was similar to being hit with a pie in the face. (Translation Note: Yeah, we'll go with pie. There are kids reading this. This is a totally innocent scene and totally not a bukkake)

Tio was in a kimono with charming black hair covered in white liquid. Her leg peeked out from the hem of her hadake with more white liquid flowing down her legs. Yeah, this looked really bad on the surface.

Kaori was the only one spared from the blunt of the damage. There was no splattering of liquid with the use of her decomposition spell. However, the initial rain before Yue had put up a barrier had already done its damage, and she didn't look much better than any of the other members.

Hajime considered using "summarize thunder" to hide the slime covered girls from the boys. Yue's appearance was too dangerous and Ryuutaro was looking around with eyes a little too bright for Hajime's comfort.

Hajime decided to be careful though since he still didn't know the milky white slime's weakness. It was important to be prudent.

(It'll be difficult to forget what has been seen this day.)

A lifeform this dangerous may find itself quickly becoming extinct.

So, like this, the milky slime in the barrier were easily destroyed. Now that the slimes on the inside were gone, Hajime turned his attention to those outside the "holy shield", which was now covered in creamy white slime. He slowly approached the wall and transferred a cross bit and a Getsurin outside of the wall.

"After all, it becomes like this..."

Hajime examined the world outside with his demon eye via the cross bit. The world outside overflowed with milky white slime. The walls and ceiling were covered and slime rained down. The ground had become a sea of milky white.

If it had not been for Yue's quick cast of the defensive magic, they could have ended up being quickly swallowed. This was truly a great labyrinth.

"Yue, will the barrier hold? I'm going to need to burn everything."

"Nn... go."

At Yue's word, Hajime releases all the crossbits and Getsurin at the same time.

"Reproduction Magic, it's time to burn them to hell!"

"So he's going to use that..."

"Last time you used this Suzu's barrier would have broke if we didn't have revival magic? We're going to die. Don't attack them Hajime, we're not the enemies!" Kyuutaro pleaded.

Hajime gave Ryuutaro a look before turning away. Suzu wore an expression like a dead fish. It seemed that Hajime's prison of flames had turned into a trauma for her. Her eyes were slightly watery. Kouki was still evading his eyes. It looked like Kouki still remembered.

“Kaori, please get rid of the rest of the slime with your decomposition. It looks bad.”

Kaori was surprised at the attention Hajime was suddenly giving her. She looked around before realizing what Hajime was talking about when he said it “looked bad.”

All the ladies were dirty and covered in white liquid and it looked kind of… they blushed all at once. Hajime was purposely being vague, in consideration of the fact that weren’t aware of their own appearances. To directly point out what it looked like would be a bad move for any man.

Kaori blushed, finally understanding and giving a look of appreciation, she embarked on cleaning up the white liquid.

Hajime refocused on an image coming in from the cross bit.

(The rain of slime seemed to not weaken at all. Is there a limitless supply? Unless we take care of the ceiling, there is no meaning to this.)

The sea of slime was increasing in volume each moment. Hajime sent the Getsurin to the ceiling. It struck the ceiling, only to have milky white slime get wrapped around it, weakening the momentum.

Hajime made cuts in the ceiling using formation magic, the Getsurin cutting even marks into the rock like cutting through butter before making a central hole.

Hajime drew a small arch in the ceiling, then confirmed that the Getsurin cut in far enough that he could just see the tip. He brought out a spider-golem and another Getsurin from the “treasure room”.

The metallic spider overstretches the drop to nothingness around each hole.

He pulled out more spiders, and each on stretched itself across another hole as if they were glued to the ceiling. The spread out in unison across the ceiling.

Now, he could control hundreds of units when they were set to non-combative maneuvering. After practice, he was capable of moving 14

times the previous number simultaneously.

As result, 80 spider golems spread across the ceiling, and began activating a drill. to suppress the milky slime, it seemed like they came from the small holes and walls, so the only way to stop the slimes was to destroy the source.

The drilling seemed to work, stopping the outflow of slime from the places the golem's drilled. The shower weakened visibly. The ceiling now emitted a red light, like the countless tails of a meteor shower.

(Okay, first take care of the ceiling, then we'll worry about the ground.)

Hajime thought things through as he spun the Getsurin spun another hole and stuck another spider to the ceiling. In turn, he opened a gate in the circle of the Getsurin and began to remove tar from the "treasure room".

"Well, well, to make my Yue dirty. I'll need to burn the slime away without a trace."

Hajime gave a fearless smile that showed the canines in his mouth, a heinous look in his eyes. Being able to cover Yue and Shia in white liquid was something Hajime couldn't forgive.

Exactly where those commendable words were earlier when they could avoid the indiscretion...

"Devil, is this a devil? Shizu, Shizu, I'm scared..."

"Just don't look... Suzu, Maybe if you can't see him..."

"It's dicey, Kouki He's being unexpected and imposing again.

"So it's a demon who looks like a man."

Shizuku and company looked in horror at Hajime's demonic appearance. Ryuutaro looked like he had seen true terror. Hajime was the kind of guy they should defeat as a hero, heroes driven by a sense of mission.

On the other hand, Yue and her group spoke up.

“Nnn…. Hajime, nice.”

“He is doing good!”

“Master ah… a glance like that. Would you only direct that eye towards your mistress?”

“… Hajime-kun… Manly…”

If something could be said of the situation, Love is blind? No matter how you look at it, Hajime’s face looked evil. However, to Yue and company it only served to charm them and make their hearts race. It was too late for them in a lot of ways.

Kaori wore a complex expression on her face at the sight of a belligerent Hajime. She had seen Hajime fight on in desperate situations before like in the Melusine Underwater Ruins. Seeing him like this reminded her of why she fell for him in the first place.

Looking at Kaori in such a situation, Koaki’s party looked at her as if the distance between them had become all the greater.

Suzu, after seeing Hajime’s fighting spirit and determination to annihilate the room full of slime, also diverted her line of sight. Even she couldn’t handle the sight of his heinous expression. That was normal, wasn’t it?

At that time, a tremendous roar echoed across the outside of the barrier. It was the sound of rocks cracking. The sound of destruction rang out in bigger and bigger succession. It sounded like the continuous burst of a firecracker, the roar beyond comparison. That was the carpet bombing started with Hajime’s cross bit.

The milky white slime covering the barrier started to writhe. Hajime becomes covered in a sheer crimson light. Yue admired it. Hajime wasn’t aware of it, single-mindedly focused on controlling the cross bits on the outside of the barrier.

The sea of slime had turned into a burning hell, reflecting in the magic stone eye behind his eye patch.

Hajime had spread black tar on the ceiling, creating blackrain that ran down from the ceiling, polluting the milky white slime below, while the Getsurin added in sprinkling tar across the sea of slime.

After enough tar had saturated the slime, the cross-bits began to drop cluster bombs. Each of the holes Hajime had created were packed full of small explosives and burning powder, the contents of each was enough to destroy a small house.

The cluster bombs ignited one after another, the slime sea undergoing one explosion after another, tearing the slimes into various small pieces. The explosive flame flooded across the sea, creating a lake of fire 3000°C in a prison of flame ignited by tar.

A tremendous amount of heat licked across the ground, rising into the air in a spire of scarlet. The milky white slime continued to burn, helpless to escape the heat. Hajime's murderous intent spread out, creating a world of scarlet that consumed everything. The trees were baked, the ground was melted, and the air was scorched. The Jukai forest was completely consumed.

A gap in the barrier finally became noticeable as milky slime fell away, burning red. Someone noticed it and raised a voice, only to realize that the barrier of slimes was replaced with a sea of flame, and the white slimes were quickly turned to ash.

Before long, the milky white around them had become completely eliminated. There was nothing left but a few puddles of tar on the ground.

"I ~, It seems like they were devoured."

"Looks like we no longer need the barrier."

Yue nodded in confirmation.

"We should maintain it a bit more. There might be a few still lurking around."

When Hajime stated so, countless black objects from the ceiling came down in a suite with a constant speed. It was the spider golems, which were lowering from hanging threads from the ceiling.

“It comes!?”

The spectacle of dozens of spider golems coming from the ceiling caused some of the party to shout out in surprise. After they realized what it was, they blushed in embarrassment, although those that recognized what they were only grinned.

The spider golems landed on the ground and began drilling once again into the floor and giant trees in the same way they had chewed up the ceiling.

Hajime finally affords some of his concentration to talk to the group.

“It’ll take some time to finish drilling all the giant trees. I don’t know how many slime there are out there. It’d be nice if we didn’t face any trouble once we leave the barrier, so we can take some time to finish up here. In that case, Yue, if you could leave the barrier up for just a bit longer.”

“…. Nn.”

While concentrating on operating the spider golems, Hajime instructed Yue who readily agreed. Either way, the crisis seemed to be over and everyone started to relax.

Kaori was already helping remove the white fluid from the other girls, ending their indecent appearance. However, Ryuutaro vowed to never forget.

Hajime continued to drill to the extent that it wouldn’t disturb their journey the rest of the way to the giant trees. He sat cross-legged in place. In was a cardinal rule of an adventurer to rest when you could rest.

The others saw him rested and committed to resting themselves as well.

At that time, a soft weight press onto Hajime’s back. Looking back over his shoulders, Hajime sees the figure of Yue there. She was hugging him from behind. She was spoiling Hajime as usual and put on a small smile for him.

“Ah… Hajime, something strange, Ah, really, I want that too Hajime.”

“What, no, what are you talking about. Yue? Together in such a circumstance?”

Yue’s breath is rough. Her lovely eyes were just a bit misted, and she was licking her lips. Any way you look at it, she was aroused.

If they were at an inn for the night, Hajime might have rejoiced, but this was clearly not the time right now.

To get aroused so suddenly in this situation, it seemed impossible. There was something abnormal with Yue right now. Hajime examined Yue with a serious look. Yue’s body was hot and trembling. Her body was pressed up against his with an impatience that even made it hard for Hajime.

Hajime shakes his head in wonder watching Yue’s condition before the shadow of the other girls caught his attention. He looked to where Shia was.

“Hajime... me... me, already... ah.”

“Shia, you too?”

“Ah, Hajime, I like, I like you.”

“Wait, just wait.”

Shia prevented escape by sandwiching Hajime’s arm between her thighs and chest and hugging his right arm, rubbing his body. Obviously, it’s the same symptoms as Yue. Cheeks red, respiration high, pupils look hazy with animal passion. It’s like they had been shot with a full throttle of sex appeal. Hajime felt a little dizzy from the smell.

“What on earth...”

Hajime stared at them with a bewildered look. There was another figure that was acting the same way as Yue and Shia.

Kaori also had directed an eye towards Hajime, writhing unbearably. Kaori crawls towards him little by little on all fours, aligning hesitantly and rubbing Hajime’s legs. Tio even...

Koaki’s group were no exception. Ryuutaro’s pupils were hollow, and he

was writhing uncomfortably. As if losing his senses, he creeps up next to Suzu as she hugs herself in a slouch. Meanwhile, Kouki is giving Shizuku a side glance with bloodshot eyes. He finally stands, approaching Shizuku with a hand extended towards her.

The problem was that Shizuku was acting in a very similar way. She was writhing in spot, stiff and unmoving, while biting her upper lip. She was silent, but had a tinge of red on her cheeks. It wouldn't do to have them have to endure this situation. Once everyone regained their senses, it might be too late.

It was hard to tell what was really going on in Kouki's mind, but there was lust in his eyes. Suzu is shivering and suffering, and Ryuutaro tries to catch her as she falls to the ground. As he called out her name, it was clear his intentions weren't noble.

"Shit, this is from the essence of the slime."

Hajime pulls out two cursed bora artifacts from the "treasure room" and slaps them on the wrists of Ryuutaro and Kouki. They seemed to be causing the worst problem. Shizuku and Suzu were delirious, even calling out Kaori and Yue's names in their fervor. The artifacts used some kind of restriction spatial magic.

It seemed like the situation was safe for a second, then Suzu started to extend a hand toward Shizuku. The expression was one that shouldn't show on a girl's face. It was the kind of important expression you only showed to the one you had your heart set on.

Hajime's clicked his tongue in annoyance, throwing another bora on Suzu as well.

"Oh... is master safe? It looks like that slime's mucus is a powerful aphrodisiac." Tio explains.

While restraining Suzu, he stops Kaori as she reaches out to cling to his left arm. Tio begins to move towards him at a steady pace with a calm look.

Hajime looks up at her.

To Hajime's surprised, she begins to talk as if normal.

"My magic is being obstructed by the feeling of intense pleasure. Soon, I might lose my consciousness and be blinded by the pleasure. This is more than just a troublesome thing. Since it wasn't just a little, I was bathed in it, it'll be impossible to resist. If the battle had been prolonged, it would have been complete destruction. Even if we survived, the after effects would become... rather dangerous."

"Oh, Oh, yeah..."

"Hmm, probably, the goal of this test is to endure pleasure and overcome difficulties together, or to let bonds be defeated by pleasure. In any case, the "liberators" played a really nasty trick. They probably didn't expect someone like past with such a high poison resistance."

"Tio...."

"What can I say? It's very much like master."

Hajime, while agreeing with Tio's predictions, gave out a bigger question while eyeing Yue and the others.

"You guess that it was the slime's mucus that caused this situation... it's safe to think that. But why are you so calm? You got hit with more mucus than anyone."

"Certainly, the liquid is affecting this mistress. In fact, my body is greatly affected by it. I'm thinking right now that I'd like master to lick me."

"Tio..."

Tio throws out her chest, giving Hajime a wide eye look as she flashes a beautiful smile.

Although Tio is being violated by intense pleasure, she's keeping her senses by the power of her will. It seemed to be a sense of pride. Hajime wondered how long she'd be able to keep it up. After all, she was hit with a lot of aphrodisiac...

"Mistress is her master's slave. Compared with the degree of pleasure

the pain you give me causes, this is only lukewarm. Now if you wanted to hit me I wouldn't be able to take it anymore."

"Is that so..."

Eyes! Kuwa! Hajime eyes turned sour and looked at her as if she was dirt. Tio, who could even shake the pleasure of the slime, began to shiver uncontrollably.

"As expected of Ms. Tio. Do you mind keeping your distance from me?"

"Oh no, to think you'd call me so indifferently and distantly. Ah... this is bad, the pleasure."

Tio was calm a little while ago, but the rapidly growing pleasure of Hajime's disgust quickly defeated her. She was brought to all fours, painting desperately. From such a sight, Hajime turned away and looked at Yue, who was hugging his body while trembling.

He decided to talk to the three he trusted the most.

Yue, Shia, Kaori. You guy's shouldn't be that overtaken by a slime like this? You're keeping things in control, right?

The three of them look up at Hajime, their cheeks stained red, their breath coming out in hot puffs as they cling to him desperately.

"Nn... is natural."

"uu, of course, yoo- "

"It's okay. I'm fine!"

They resisted the intense desire that tempted them to devote themselves to pleasure. Yue and the others were keeping it together with clenched teeth. After a look at the girls, Hajime laughs with satisfaction.

"This is one of the disgusting trials prepared for the great labyrinth. If you think for a second you can't take it, look at the others. Don't lose to them, it'd be embarrassing?"

Amongst his speech, Yue's mouth distorted into a fearless smile.

"There is a way to fix this immediately, of course. I'm holy water to

drink. That would quickly change out state. There are no things that can't be released. How about..."

Hajime and the two others respond at the same time before she can finish talking.

"... unnecessary."

"I do not need."

"I don't need that."

They decided to get over the trial without any help. If "help" was "that". Hajime gave a soft look. Yue, Shia, and Kaori give him happy smiles, because Hajime believed in them.

He still tried to help by keep a distance between the three women. This wasn't something that would be easy for them to endure.

However...

"Hajime hug is gone..." Yue whined.

"It isn't harder for you?"

"It's harder not to embrace Hajime."

"As she said, because the heart calms down... so please..." Shia added.

Hajime thought that it'd be a problem if he held them, but found himself holding all three in his arms. On his right arm is Shia, his left his Kaori, and Yue was held in the front on his lap.

They occasionally trembled with shivers, but Yue and the others devoted themselves to controlling their rough breathing and finally began to feel relief.

If they concentrated with their eyes closed, they could maintain and balance their spirit. Soon, the three excited women body temperatures began to drop and their heartbeats returned to normal. They seemed to be able to whether this trial without a problem as well. Hajime avoided moving his body even slightly as to not stimulate them. He smiled a little and kept supporting the three woman.

“I like this master, may your mistress also come over there?” Tio speaks up.

“Clearly that’s a joke... Ms. Clarce.”

“I’m falling down... oh, so cold. I’m done for.”

Chapter 130 : Black Devil

As always, this is a not a direct translation, but a rewrite on my interpretation of the MTLs. All credit goes to the original author (Chuuni Suki)

* * *

Don't read and eat at the same time. So you don't get sick, choose to read before or after your meals.

(Translation Note: Yes, the chapter starts with this warning. I guess it's going to be a gross one.)

The "saint shield" barrier finally dissipated as the outside blaze consumed the remainder of the tar and extinguished. The only remaining vegetation adhered to a strangely metallic ground covered with ash. It looked like an apocalyptic landscape.

"...Hmm?"

"How's everyone?"

"Oh?"

Hajime sat in the middle of the burnt out wasteland with Yue, Shia, and Kaori holding him tightly with their eyes closed. They each opened their eyes in turn and tilted their heads.

"Oh? What's the matter?"

Hajime asked with a worried voice as he noticed a strange look on Yue. Yue and the other girls looked at each other, acknowledging that they all had recovered before nodding and turning to Hajime.

"...Nn, we endured."

"Yes, the pleasure seems to be gone."

"I also don't feel anything, I'm back to my senses."

It seems to be that way.

They seemed to have endured the aphrodisiac effect of the milky slime that took their sanity with their mental strength. Excessive pleasure wasn't all that different from pain. Hajime couldn't imagine how much Yue and the others had suffered from an attack unlike any other they've ever experienced.

Hajime praised the three of them for doing a good job passing the labyrinth's ordeal.

"As expected, all three of you did a good job. I was worried for a bit but I'm glad you're okay."

"Nn... Kufufu."

"Ehehehe, it's embarrassing to be told that so forwardly."

"It's thanks to Hajime-kun. It was your support that allowed me to endure."

Hajime no longer had to hug the three as they were no longer under the effect of the aphrodisiac. Nevertheless, they didn't let go as they grew gitty over being praised by Hajime.

Hajime tried to loosen his grip assuming it'd be alright by now, but Yue responded by hugging him even stronger.

Did they need more praising? The three girl looked upward at Hajime with blushing cheeks while they clang to him even more aggressively. They didn't wear expressions that suggested they had lost their sanity. However, those expressions hold a certain allure of their own.

When they were under the aphrodisiac effect, it was easy for Hajime to reject their approaches, but it was a bit more difficult to resist Yue's charm when she meant it. He gave up trying to get his arms back.

Then...

"Gohon! Sorry to interrupt you, but since we're all better now I was wondering if you might untie Kouki and the rest?"

"Oh yeah? You did well too. You managed to make it without help.

Indeed, a swordsman? Is this one of those spirit unification techniques?"

"Oh, Shizuku. Ehehe, I'm sorry, At the same time... my Shizuku-chan!"

After everything was over, it looked like Shizuku had managed to escape the pleasurable hell at the same time as Yue and the others, but had a haggard expression when she saw the pink space the group had made beside her. The interruption had managed to disrupt the mood and turn the group back to normal.

The girls who had been basking in Hajime's praise turned away, slightly embarrassed.

"Oh, thank you. Well, I was able to keep calm since my father hammered self-control into me since a young age during fencing. But it was a little dangerous. I mean, I wonder if things would have turned out this way if Kouki and the rest weren't constrained. I survived because I had the room to concentrate, without having to worry about defending myself. Thank you, Nagumo-kun. "

"That's good to hear. The pleasure could have knocked you unconscious. Enduring pleasure in place of pain could do that. While I prepare, Yaegashi, you might want to fix your clothes and mud situation."

"Clothes? Mud? Oh... yeah. I understand."

At first, Shizuku did not understand what Hajime had meant, but when she glanced down at herself she noticed that a change of clothes was in order. (It was sweat, Shizuku was just covered in sweat!) She blushed at the comment, nodding tightly.

Hajime used his transmutation to create several simple dressing rooms built from a wall of soil. The "Treasure room" had changes of clothing for Kouki and Ryuutaro as well (clothes bought in town). He took them out and tossed one over to Shizuku. Hajime collected the Bora Cursed Objects from Kouki's group, releasing them.

Kouki's group immediately drop. Shizuku managed to catch Suzu before she hit the ground, but Kouki and Ryuutaro collapsed to the ground with a rather painful noise. It was the hero and his sidekick, so Hajime had no

worries.

While the female teammates used water magic to clean up and changed their clothing, Hajime concentrated on collecting all the spider golems.

They had finished destroying the ground around the immediate vicinity. There would be no Milky Slime coming out of the ground in surprise this time. These extra measures seemed necessary after the amount of time the milky slimes has previously wasted.

“You... master. I wouldn’t mind if you looked at this mistress. There is no need for a locker room.” At that point, a voice timidly came from behind.

Tio had managed to break through the aphrodisiac effect readily even though she had received the most slime.

Hajime recalls the fact and glances back at Tio.

“Were you still there, Ms. Clarce?”

“!? Please Master! You’re still doing that? It was certainly pleasant to begin with, but can you go back to the usual way of naming me!”

“That, what are you even talking about? As usual, Ms. Clarce is Ms. Clarce. Please don’t get any closer to me.”

“!!!!? Please, Master. I’m getting too excited. I’m repenting, please turn back!”

“.....”

As Tio crawls up to his feet and scratches at his shoe, Hajime looks away and ignores her. The distant attitude by calling her with her last name and treating her like she was invisible were unbearable for Tio. Hajime was happy about this, Tio seemed genuinely saddened by this treatment, it looked like he found an effective punishment whenever she acted up.

Tio was trembling as she watched Hajime. By any chance, did Hajime go too far? Her look was becoming more and more tearful.

“This is a terrible master. I ask... call me Tio.”

Hajime had dealt a blow to stunt Tio's abnormal behavior at last; it was a very satisfactory feeling.

However, Tio's rueful appearance wasn't the transformation Hajime was hoping for, destroying her beautiful appearance in her deteriorating kimono. Hajime's devious heart considered things a little more, whether he punished her objectively, it seemed to be the role of a master. Happy or not, she wasn't aware of it.

"It's pointless, Tio. It's already too late for you to change the kind of person you are, so at least be a little prudent."

While Hajime shrugged while saying so, Tio was dumbfounded. Her expression brightened, and she gave a smile that looked like it belonged to a sweet, young girl. That smile was beautiful enough to tug on even Hajime's heartstrings.

She was knowledgeable and could have some deep thoughts, understanding the subtleties of the human mind. Understanding someone and making an effort when she could have lost her composure. She had courage and decisiveness, unmatched combat strength. She was affectionate and kept her word. And her appearance was the best. If it wasn't for her abnormality, you could say she was a "perfect woman".

"Really, it is a shame... Because in a sense, I..."

"?"

It seemed like Hajime had opened a new door for Tio. He felt partially responsible for her abnormality but he was helpless to fight it.

"What's is it? Master..."

"...No, nothing. Go get changed and freshen up."

"Yikes, it's a... That's okay then, master? For me to change right here in the corner?"

When Hajime planned for Tio to use the makeshift changing room, Tio gave an expectant look and said such a thing.

Hajime's cheek twitched as he wondered "where's that prudence?" and

pulled out a grenade.

"...How about this? It's a special present for you. It'll blow the dirt away along with your skin!"

"!? I get it. I'll go change my clothes immediately!"

Tio waved her hands and dived into the dressing room. While watching Tio's back, a Ryujin that had fallen pitifully beyond repair, for some reason the word 'responsibility' flashed through Hajime's mind. He shook his head to drive the character out of his mind.

Others began to emerge from the dressing room after cleaning themselves. Sure enough, Kouki, Suzu, and most of all Ryuutaro emerged with downtrodden looks. They were all hunched as if burdened by unbearably heavy stones, and the atmosphere was wrapped with dark clouds as if magic was being used.

Although they had lost their sanity during the aphrodisiac effect, they seemed to remember what they'd done. Pleasure followed by hell, it seemed that Tio was right when she predicted this would try the bonds of relationships, Kouki's group seemed proof of that.

Ryuutaru and Kouki couldn't meet the girl's eyes and Suzu seemed determined to keep her distance. Suzu kept to the shadows with their heads down and red ears. Hajime feared he'd need to follow up with Suzu if they couldn't figure things out on their own.

Because they nearly sexually assaulted each other, it made them uncomfortable and provided a sense of guilt that couldn't be ignored. In particular, Suzu was a girl. The fact that she could have started that kind of relationship with her peer caused a certain kind of damage to her spirit.

"Let's just forget it, Suzu...? It was unavoidable. Things didn't go too far... so... There are one or two memories no one wants to remember, probably..."

".... Shizu, Shizu."

"Look! Remember that time I was wondering around the dirty game

section without noticing what was for sale? It was serious, the male customers around were all looking at me with judgmental eyes... and I became depressed..."

"Is.... Shizu interested in dirty games?"

"That's not it! That was an unfortunate accident!"

"Shizu investigating dirty games... kufufu, with a serious look... pukuku."

"It is terrible to laugh, Suzu."

Shizuku looked somewhat relieved now that Suzu was laughing.

It seemed like any comfort would work to overcome the dark history sealed in people's memories, and "sympathy of embarrassment" was a self-torture ingredient necessary to help Suzu's spirit recover a bit.

As expected of Shizuku, willing to sacrifice herself. It was admirable!

Kouki had his head down, so Suzu watched him.

"Nagumo cared for everyone. We should be thankful he stopped us."

"Yes, you're right. We were saved by Nagumo. I'm serious. Thank you very much." Ryuutaro who seemed to be uncomfortable following Kouki turned his eyes to Hajime and expressed his thanks.

"Be thankful. Make sure to remember that. Always be conscious of your debt. So that when you're better, you can return it to me by resolving to be an appropriate meat shield. If I make a mistake, it'll be fine. Because I'll go to the ends of the Earth to make sure you repay it."

Hajime came off more like a Yakuza business lending out money at 11 to 1. When someone skipped a payment, they really did go to any length to make them pay. A thank you didn't seem to be the kind of payment he was looking for.

The church or someone like Nointo might want Kouki's party to become his enemy (no matter how hopeless). So he wanted to keep them conscious of the debt, just in case.

But not really knowing what was on Hajime's mind, Kouki's group had twitching cheeks and disturbed expressions like cheat victims who had just found themselves consumed by an unreasonable debt.

It certainly mad a big debt in that sense unless they could stop relying on Hajime. They recognized that and gave each other a silent nod.

However, the awkwardness seemed to clear up after the speech that trampled the common sense of Hajime.

The thought of the debt collector coming to make unreasonable demands seemed to inspire Kouki and Ryuutaro, and apparently Suzu and Shizuku as well. In a sense, they felt unity over not wanting to be consumed by debt, burying the break between them a bit.

Without being attacked by any more Milky slimes, they advanced across the wasteland with ease and finally arrived at the giant tree. They gathered at the entrance and stepped into the next magic circle.

The place where Hajime and company appeared was as expected. However, the light being emitted from it was different from usual. There was a doorway leading to the outside and it was open from the beginning.

Hajime glanced around, seeing that he wasn't missing a single member. The magic eye could not detect the present of any fakes. In other words, they needed to proceed as is.

Hajime cautiously moved forward towards the exit bathed in light as Hajime gave everyone else a nod.

"This is... like Fair Bergen." Hajime looks ahead and nods as so.

Yue and the others had similar impressions and nodded.

Ahead of the cave exit was an aisle, or rather a huge branch that could easily be mistook for an aisle. When Hajime glanced back, he could see a huge wooden trunk that went back so far he couldn't see the end. In other words, the empty cave came at the root of a branch that Hajime and the

others were on.

The tree was too big, and the branch made a 5 meter across aisle just as it is. Other big branches protrude from the tree intertwining here and there. It was an air corridor in the same way as Fair Bergen.

Unlike Fair Bergen, it was a single branch growing from the tree and intertwine to make the air space, as opposed to a several groupings of branches.

If you look up, there is a stone ceiling, so they were definitely still underground. This tree branch was likely part of the Great Tree as Hajime couldn't imagine there being any other giant trees like this.

"...Great Tree?"

"It's likely this is a space just under the Great Tree."

"But the Great Tree is visible on the ground."

"Well, it seems to have grown branches below the ground. The real roots might be much deeper underground. We only see the tip that's visible, it might be just a small part."

"How big does the Great Tree get?"

Overtaken by the mind-boggling enormity of the Great Tree, it was almost too great to contemplate. The ceiling obstructed the view ahead, but Hajime still imagined the tree towering above them.

Shia's usamimi twitched and began to move. Shia appeared to pick up some kind of sound. Shia wondered "What's that sound?" and set out to verify the identity while walking the distance of the branch.

The faint sound was leathery and her ears flopped around with disgust. Shia frowned as her Usamimi picked up the sound, an imperceptible sound that sent goosebumps across her skin. She peered over the edge cautiously.

"? Dark and invisible, that's it."

'What's the matter?"

“I’m hearing a somewhat unpleasant sound, but it’s too dark for my eyes…”

“You want me to look for you?”

“Yes, thank you. What is that? The sound of such a feeling, like wriggling.”

“I understand, something that sounds disgusting?”

Hajime glanced over the edge on the left of the branch passage after Shia called. Certainly, the darkness could not be pierced at this particular height, but with “night eyes” and “far vision” it wouldn’t be a problem for Hajime.

“…!?”

First, Hajime couldn’t see anything, but as he narrowed his eyes doubtfully he gave out a cry that couldn’t be voiced. He looked up, his face blue and his expression giving away danger.

“Ha, Hajime!? What’s wrong? To see you react so much. What exactly did you see?”

“…Hajime, okay?”

Hajime was the height of fearless arrogance and boldness. For Hajime’s face to display fear gave something very difficult to imagine. Yue anxiously rubbed Hajime’s back. Shia was holding his hand gently.

Hajime finally recovered as bit of warmth and murmured while trembling and overlooking everyone with a serious look.

.”…The devil is there…”

“Demon?” x5

Everyone inclined their necks at Hajime’s pointless words. Kouki and Ryuutaro turned their eyes from Hajime, who to them looked most like the devil himself, to declare something else a devil, gave them watery eyes.

“Yes, it’s a devil. It’s black and you know it well…”

When he said only that, Hajime pulled out a crossbit and sent it down. A small crystal was put up so that everyone could see.

The things which reflected in the light right in front of Yue and others was...

"!?" x5

If you find one, there is at least thirty more. It bears the name of the black devil, having been feared with the word inititals G. Always creeps, rustling by chaos, life force causing it to doggedly survive, struggling in the shadows moving at high speed. If you are flying in the air, the Earth, enemy of the strong which cause abnormalities in a state of confusion and panic in restaurants, they are soldiers of unique magic.

The name of... cockroach.

The cockroach is, at the bottom of this underground space, millions, several tens of millions, no their wriggling had no measurement. It was an incomparable sea of cockroaches. The leathery unpleasant sound was the sound of cockroaches rubbing against each other.

"So, what things... look..."

"Yeah, so many, lots and lots."

With blue faces, Suzu and Shizuku look away as well. They both had goosebumps on their arms. The other members were pretty much the same. In particular, Shia's usamimis were now hanging down, she was desperate to cover up the sound now that she knew what it was. She buried her head in her hands and squatted down, her eyes teary.

"....Hajime, will burn them."

Yue unusually says a dangerous thing, but Tio and Kaori seemed to already have the same intention. Their desire to see the things destroyed were indicated by the look in the eyes and the goosebumps on their skin.

"It might be better to stop... that number? I suggest... what if they flew in large quantities?"

"....." x3

Thousands of cockroaches coming flying up all at once at them, Hajime proposed. Yue lost her fighting spirit, and her face changed into a complicated expression. Apparently, the heart was broken in an instant.

“If we don’t fall, I think it’s okay. I think... as... I’ll advance first and stop any that come up quickly. It might only attack when we stop.”

Everyone wore a more serious expression that they previously had at Hajime’s words, they gave firm nods.

Hajime traveled out on top of the thick branch passage. For now, there was only the goal of advancing along the road, but since the place was major scaffolding, there appeared to be a joined branch passage in the distance which he supposed was where he was going to aim.

Along the way, the roaches had not jumped up or been startled and they had made it from the entry branch to the next branch aisle. Things looked good, and then...

A feared sound was heard.

Vu... vuvuvuvuvuvuvuvuvuvu!!!

It was flapping sounds, in a large amount.

“!?”

Hajime who confirms with a look below. Sure enough, a brown tsunami was coming stretching out and rising as flapping hordes of cockroaches emerged with a furious spectacle.

“Uo... it’s covered!!”

“Hey, oh, oh oh!!”

“Hyiii!!”

“Come now, oh, oh!”

“—-!!”

Everyone was raising cries of disgust as they prepared for the biggest attack of their lives.

Hajime shot rockets from Orukan. Yue used her “thunder dragon”, Shia

fought with burst slug ammunition out of the Doryukken, Tio invoked breath, and Kaori released decomposition while Kouki's group used whatever long distance attacks they could muster.

Blooming flowers of crimson perched below, roars of thunder. Spreading ripples of blue light, cut blank flashes of black and silver. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to declare overwhelming annihilation. If this force was put in front of the kingdom and the imperial army, surely, they would oblige to leave this world.

However, the attack didn't dent the mountainside of blossoming black tsunami coming towards them. Attacking the sea itself is the same as pointless. The tsunami of cockroaches jumped freely in the movement spread throughout space as birds do in perfect order.

"It is terrible! Holy shield!""

Already half crying, Suzu put up a barrier.

Shortly after, the Zaa Aaaa continued move up into the sky. A wave of cockroaches descended as if attracted by gravity and pounced towards Hajime's party.

The roaches hit the walls, the momentum causing tons to smoosh and sprinkle their fluids as the survivors crawl all over the barrier wall.

"No, ri..."

Suzu's barrier stretched under the weight and she started to lose consciousness. Kouki resists losing heart and tries to give out an encouraging voice over the desperation.

"Suzu, don't pass out. If you become unconscious we all die. Keep up your spirit!"

Which was part of the attack. To be swallowed by the wave of cockroaches in flesh and blood, but it's an attack on the spirit as much as a magical attack. These kind of abnormalities couldn't be avoided. On the contrary, they could traumatize you for life.

"Yue, take over the defense!"

"...Nn, will absolutely not be broken."

Yue deployed her holy shield to superimpose the one Suzu had raised up with an arm covered in goosebumps. The outside of the barrier was stained black with cockroaches crawling and rustling.

"Somehow, it has been like this since I came to this labyrinth."

"Extremely messy huge labyrinth. Well, this one assumes you've beaten several of these others and have obtained their cheats so it raises the difficulty up several steps."

"It would be very difficult if you did not have time to analyze things calmly."

"Kaori, it's okay, there is no problem. That out there is just a black sesame thing. Black sesame pudding or black sesame furikake and I quite like it. Especially black sesame furikake seasoning soy sauce flavored. That's delicious. Rice is great."

"Shizuku-chan! Oh no! I broke the already fragile Shizuku-chan."

Kaori gives a heartbreaking cry as Shizuku's pupils go dead. Meanwhile, Hajime reaches into the "treasure room" and starts preparing for extermination while rubbing the goosebumps on his arms.

However, before that happens.

The cockroaches that flocked to the barrier drew in unison. The wave of cockroach in front of everything move into a sphere of air, producing a circular ring to surround the center.

Superimposed further circular rings on the outer periphery of the giant circular ring form. The next cockroach column begins to sequence around the ring. Gradually, the sight begins to form a geometric pattern created in air. Hajime's cheek twitched.

"Hey, Hey, Hey, believe it or not. Are they forming a magic circle?"

Once a magic circle was formed by Nointo handling and lining up its silver feathers formerly in the air. The countless cockroaches were now doing the same thing. Hajime and the other's declared "how gross" and

continued their attack simultaneously.

However, the wave of cockroaches lay ahead so that the spear in the center of the magic circle was maintained.

It'll be a meat wall literally, and Hajime's and the others attacks were obstructed. A dead body of the cockroaches where were blown away fell in a torrential downpour into the lower part, but this did not decrease the number at all.

While continuing to fight in this way, the magic circle seemed to be completed. Close to fifteen meters in diameter it floated in the air, a magic circle emitting light of intense red and black. And when it burst the next moment, a central sphere which consists of cockroaches began to rise and change shape. It was a huge cockroach of about three meters at full length, at last.

But rather than taking the oval form as cockroaches around it, it came with a needle like tail and a torso similar to a centipede, complete with 10 legs. Its front feet had sharp finger like knives. The face had black color eyes, and a sharp chin, along with three pairs, six total translucent wings. Perhaps this was a monster of the boss class.

"Gigi Chchichichichichichi chip!!!"

The boss cockroach wore dark red phosphorescent color and emits unpleasant cries. Then the cockroaches gathered around further, beginning to for another magic square. Apparently the boss cockroach could control the other cockroaches. A rather small sphere begins to be formed, plenty in the center of a new magical center. It isn't the boss cockroach, but it's clear that a special cockroach appears big.

"Tch... what to do?"

"....Nn!?"

Suddenly a torrent of the magic generated the moment Hajime and Yue tried to make an attack on the magic circle from their footing.

The both turned their eyes down immediately, but there was nothing in a branch aisle to hold. However, his magic eye caught that further down

the branch aisle, on the other side of the aisle, out of sight, the cockroaches were forming another magic circle.

It was trying to focus their attention on it, probably forming a magic flash to hide the other circle. Bad Hajime! It was actuated already the moment Hajime realized that.

Red and black magic was transmitted through the branch passage along the scaffold. Hajime protected his face from the intense light. After the flash exploded, it wrapped the surrounding region and settled there. Hajimei and the others appeared intact.

What on earth was it? Hajime looked next to him to Yue while suspecting.

"……"

The feeling that welled up within Hajime at that moment was not relief for her safety and was not the usual love, it was…

–It was hate.

Chapter 131 : Was Something Reversed?

As always, this is a not a direct translation, but a rewrite on my interpretation of the MTLs. All credit goes to the original author (Chuuni Suki)

* * *

Disgust, no, the best word was hatred. Such a deep, dark feeling, Hajime felt for... Yue.

It was apparent that Yue felt the same way. Her eyes were distorted with a murderous look as she glanced at Hajime as well.

“Yue.”

“.... Hajime.”

They called each other’s names with familiarity, but with a sort of discomfort as well.

“... I completely despise you.”

“.... I feel nothing but hate.”

With strong emotion, the pair pull out weapons and raise them at each other. Hajime aims Donna straight at Yue’s forehead, while Yue lifts up a flame in her right hand. The words “Oh?” and “Who first?” hung in the air like a classic scene in a Yakuza shop.

“Hey, what are you two doing?”

A voice came forth between the two. It was Shia. Her left shoulder holding Doryukken, her posture like she was about to attack, with a very restrained voice.

“Shouldn’t the one you want to kill be me? Don’t be selfish.”

Like Hajime and Yue, Shia stared at them with hate and malice in her eyes.

Hajime also had negative feelings towards Shia that rivaled the murderous feeling he had for Yue. When Hajime gritted his teeth and

looked around, he felt death glares from Tio and Kaori as well. They looked at Yue, Shia, and Hajime all with hate-filled eyes.

"Oh, hey guys. What are you guys doing? Nagumo is just Nagumo."

It's Kouki. Kouki seems to be protecting Hajime while giving Yue and the others a stern glare. His eyes seem to hold a great deal of affection for Hajime as he accuses the others of acting strange.

Ryuutaro and Suzu did not seem to share any particular strong feelings against Hajime. Rather, Ryuutaro seemed to be giving Kouki a look of disgust. Shizuku also seems to have hate in her eyes when she looks at Hajime, and a condemning look for Kouki, and a downright murderous look for Kaori.

Fortunately, the "holy shield" barrier was still being maintained by Yue. The swarm of roaches had surged again, trying to catch Hajime and rest off-guard during this abnormality, as the group just glared at each other.

More cockroaches gather into magic circles, attempting to create more special cockroaches outside their protective barrier. Another tsunami of cockroaches flies by, buying them a bit of time.

Hajime analyzed the effect of the light magic using "detect magic" and judged it against his changing emotions to take a guess at the situation now.

"Apparently, the light magic we felt a moment ago seems to have reversed our emotions. The intensity is proportional to the strength of the original emotion."

"... Nn, reasonable conclusion, I unwillingly agree."

Hajime explains without turning away; Yue agrees with a disgusted look. Even though the feeling is reversed, they didn't lose their memories. By inferring from memory how they original thought about each other, it was likely the correct guess.

While holding angry looks, no one else raised an objection.

"The extent of this trial... You can still remember, but the emotion has

been reversed. It's difficult to shake off what you remember versus how you feel. It's a disgusting ordeal. The deeper the bond, the more it'll try to tear it apart."

As Tio explained the extent of this trial, she started blushing as she watched the cockroaches crawling on the outer wall, clogging her words. The allure of the cockroaches seem to jam up every one's words; it was Kaori who managed to put it into words.

"…. look so pretty."

So that was also a problem. For the black devils that they would hold as enemies, the hate was flipped. Instead of being repulsed, Hajime and the others only felt endeared by the cockroaches. It was only their memories of disliking them that kept their guard up.

Their emotions were inverted. They needed no more evidence to support that conjecture. The allies with the deepest bonds would be cut, their capacity to defend themselves weakened by their hatred. That might be the goal. Especially against these demonic cockroaches, they certainly had to hold on to their disgust.

With the group unable to cooperate, they'd be swallowed by the tsunami of cockroaches, or fall prey to the medium-sized ones about 1 meter in length. These boss cockroaches were being produced one after another.

It wouldn't go amiss to call this a desperate situation. … However, the current people here were far from ordinary.

"… It's the mountains of cockroaches I want to kill."

"… I'd like to kill them, as well as you."

Hajime and Yue stared out at the cockroaches. Their eyes seemed to penetrate through the cockroaches pressed up against the outer wall, contemplating on the boss cockroach that had created this situation.

"… More than that."

"… Than that."

Hajime and Yue's eyes flashed with brutal glare. Yue, who usually doesn't show much expression, wore an aggressive look like that of a wild wolf, her eyes narrowed. Dwelling in those eyes was a fierce anger like never before.

"I like to love... man, I want to kill!"

"…. I want to love him and be cherished."

Two heads reached a boil.

Their anger gushed out, hot like magma. They remembered how they had previously felt for each other. The cockroaches had messed with their feelings. No one should trifle with those important feelings between two people in love.

Even against roaches, dislike and anger weren't enough to describe the ferocity that they felt for the cockroaches, something that changed to something sadistic. The feelings grew to a bitterness over the nature of the entire labyrinth up to this moment as well.

And Hajime and Yue weren't the only ones.

Kouki and the others flinched from the pressure of the overwhelming anger emitted from Hajime and Yue, causing them to retreat. But behind them, Shia, Tio, and even Kaori wore eyes red with anger that could only be described as demonic.

Yue opened up the "Holy Barrier", causing Kouki and the others to caste looks of skepticism and panic. Red magic began to spread out from Hajime's feet. His lip is lifted, his canine exposed, and a look of absolute murder on his face.

Shortly after,

Zudooon!!

Hajime leaped from the passage like a single bullet, the roar leaving behind a crater in the middle of branch where his feet previously were. Using an ability like "ground shrink", mixed with "enhanced legs" and "impact change", his body moved like a bomb with body reinforcement of

pure magic. The “body reinforcement” was applied to the whole body, making him harder than steel, and his body was covered in “Lightning Clad” and red magic, appearing like the embodiment of thunder.

Unable to stop Hajime, Suzu’s “Holy Barrier” was easily destroyed from the inside like waste paper. Hajime rushes the boss cockroach with the intent to destroy it.

“I’ll love you until death.”

The boss cockroach couldn’t even react, its visual recognition unable to match the speed of Hajime moving like a madman with a screw loose.

Suddenly, the cockroach didn’t seem so dangerous. Maybe it was because they reverse their feelings, or didn’t expect someone to sneak out during the siege of cockroaches, but this demon boss seemed rather... simple?

Hajime, as the weapon he was, took out his anger on the cockroach, delivering a fatal blow, using the momentum of his rush combined with a knee kick.

GAAAAAAN

With the resounding roar of steel on steel, the boss cockroach disappeared a second later, Hajime appearing in its spot. The boss cockroach had blown away at an unperceivable speed.

Hajime remained in place using the “aerodynamic” to stand still, receiving the glares and murderous intent as he looked at the direction the boss cockroach was blown away.

On the other side, once Hajime had taken off....

Suzu was panicking, desperately trying to bring back the barrier that he had taken out. However, the cockroaches that drew near no longer disgusted her. Was there a good reason to stay away from the cockroaches? In fact, aren’t they desirable? While thinking this, she lost to the spell.

The cockroaches in this labyrinth are just insects... after all.

Yue stood up to fill the fatal gap in Suzu's actions to rectify the situation.

"Shaking heaven."

Around Yue and the others, space itself seemed to wave for a moment. She had started to show the full extent of her god-level magic.

Just as the wave of cockroaches was about to reach them, Space began to explode. The tremendous power generated shock waves that crushed into the cockroaches, crushing them in small pieces, and a moment later only sand remained.

Yue was not finished yet. "Five Heaven Dragons."

The moment that magic name sounded from her lovely voice, thunder, the blue flame, the storm, the snow and ice, the five bodies of dragons appeared. As tens of thousands of cockroaches rushed towards them, Yue's dragons circled around them with a distinctive roar and were decimated in an instant.

Yue began to float up with the use of her gravity magic without a glance back to the others. Her body began to rush towards the boss cockroach along with the whole body of the dragon in free fall.

As a formation of 200 medium-sized cockroaches made an attack formation against Hajime, Shia blew it away.

Shia, Tio, and Kaori had all realized, much like Yue in the beginning, that their affection for Hajime had been played with. The cockroaches looming above who had chosen to reverse their emotions were met with a fierce anger raging beyond the intentions of the labyrinth. (Translation Note: In other words, don't mess with the dere or you get the yan.)

Shia lept into the air with magically reinforced legs, scampering across the sky on light blue disks that rippled with beautiful blue light. Also, Tio and Kaori respectively expanded their dragon wings and sliver wings from their backs, leaping up at once as they met glares with the mid-sized cockroaches.

"Oh, hey, I no longer find you repugnant. However, I've still decided that

you die."

"That, That's right. Bug-chan is cute but... I can't die, and I have to fight as expected, don't I?"

"Yes, but decapitate them? Such dear creatures?"

"If we don't kill, then we'll be killed. We must be strong, and fight strong, so that we aren't left behind."

Though, it's shameful to say that to them, the Cockroaches might as well have been a Chihuahua staring at them with round eyes as they tried to aim for its neck. It was like trying to kill a small dog that you'd loved from birth. It was these messed up and crazy inconsistencies that they had to deal with, but couldn't help but think that way.

The remaining people from Kouki's party couldn't fly freely through the sky, stranding them at the center of the branch passage. They began to fight passively. They battled side by side and shoulder to shoulder with people they didn't like. It was a troublesome feeling.

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The boss cockroach that had received Hajime's flying knee kick had flown off into the trunk of the big tree, sinking magnificently and being blown to bits by the furious momentum. An abdomen that would have taken pride as having the strength of steel was pounded radially centering on the part that received the direct hit, whitish body fluid spilling out from the newly formed hole.

"Gichichichichichichichi!"

The boss cockroach made an unpleasant cry sound while swinging its antennae. A group of cockroaches immediately swarm around the boss cockroach, dissolving into its form in an instant, assimilating and curing the injury the boss had sustained. As long as the small cockroaches remained, they'd be able to keep fighting indefinitely.

The boss cockroach picks out a splinter that had embedded itself into the cockroach from the big tree. The cockroach seems bigger now as it lets out an unpleasant sound.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

The cockroach eyes glanced around for the one who injured him...

"Still, let me enjoy this a bit more."

It seemed like hitting the abdomen just cured the impact further. The roaring sound once again came as steel struck steel. Hajime had quietly approached from the side and send in a Yakuza style kick.

The boss cockroach sinks into the trunk again. Hajime began to attack it mercilessly like a wild beast. Do not use weapons. Hajime had no intention on ending the moment. Applying a "magic shockwave" to his fist and reinforcing his body with magic, he quickly undercuts the bosom of the boss cockroach with another and then another.

Dugong! Dugong! Dugong!

evacuated with “aerodynamic” and “ground shrink” before it reach him. Where Hajime was an instant before, smoke wrapped around the boss cockroach and the great tree.

With a moment free of Hajime, the boss calls for a group of cockroaches. A large amount of cockroaches rush into their own black smoke.

After a few seconds, the boss cockroach regained its form, removing the wounds and shaking off the black smoke. The tree behind the cockroach that had been exposed to black smoke had collapsed, seeping down the trunk as a gray mush. Apparently, the black smoke had some kind of corrosive effect.

The boss cockroach’s six wings began to shake at a high speed, BIIIIII! The boss cockroach took off at high speed. Hajime entered high speed flight to give the cockroach his regards once again, quickly overshadowing it simultaneously as the cockroach assumed a posture of struggle.

The accelerating Hajime circles around the cockroach again and rushes, blocking off its retreat. At the same time, a tsunami of cockroaches begin to slope up behind Hajme. While giving the cockroaches a smile as if he was saying “What is it, cutie?” he jerks out his left arm, he drew out some weapons. He had a mind to attack from the front while letting the cross bit attack from behind.

A wall of air appeared around the boss cockroach. It had made it to the speed of sound. They didn’t know if the branch passages would give way to the shockwave and vacuum and become destroyed. He also would be destroyed if he tried to avoid the tree at the last moment.

Still, Hajime showed no intention of leaving, even as the vibration smashed against his artificial arm. He attacked directly from the front.

Just then, a huge dragon of thunder and another clad in blue flames broke through the wall of cockroaches behind him and appeared.

Hajime feels it coming, and without looking back gives a face as if to say “Yuck.” However, the cockroach is already in sonic speed. The

‘blinking light’ perceptive abilities were already being stretched many times, and it was already hopeless.

“Why, I was!”

He delivered a single blow. An outburst of the elbow and “magic shockwave” mixed with fire at the same time, struck the boss cockroach straight on. The cockroach was also stretching its leg with a clawlike sharp blade, but was eluded completely with the intense cross counter. The face of the boss cockroach was pounded in detail with the effect of vibrations smashing and spreading across the creature in waves.

The impact on the front of the head caused the cockroach to round vertically and fly off in the direction of the day after tomorrow.

Immediately after, the roaches aiming for Hajime were consumed by Yue’s dragons in the spot Hajime just was.

“…. Thank you, removed.”

“Was that for me? Or those dear cockroach-kun.”

“… Of course, the yellow cockroaches.”

“Hey, what’s that? I’m getting things going. It looks like a new cockroach species?”

Hajime moved next to Yue, wearing an unhappy face. Yue floats a very hateful smile towards Hajime disdainfully. Hajime, who held up through the offensive of the thunder dragon and the blue flame dragon while narrowly escaping floated a blue vein on his forehead, but where does the wind blow?

“Your intention was to kill me.”

“… Of course not, at your level there was no reason to believe you’d be killed.”

“Oh, certainly, but could you have attacked worse than that?”

The two wore an atmosphere of disgust towards each other, being in a state where they dislike each other more than anyone, that’s the effects of the emotion reversal, yet still they were able to trust each other in

combat.

The boss cockroach had approached the sonic speed while still wearing the black smoke of imperceptible corrosion. It turned out Yue could take it on easier from the front and engaged without thinking.

Furthermore, the large tsunami of cockroaches were approaching. If you looked closely, a small cockroach was wrapped in a black haze. The boss cockroach draws near from Yue's side as the pair acknowledge the sea of corrosion.

"Hey you, that smoke decays everything. Don't let it touch your clothing or things might become erotic."

"... Perhaps for a rotten character like you. I'm sure I'm resistant."

They spit venom at each other without hesitation, cutting words at close range.

Meanwhile, the black smoke coalesced into a black tidal wave of corrosion around the boss cockroach moving at sonic speeds, targeting Yue and Hajime in a manner that was anything but disordered.

However, it seemed like the two couldn't be bruised.

The black smoke rushed in making a sonic boom, reaching out for the two people in front, and they instantly moved away, dancing around the streams of smoke as they glared at each other.

Their movements seemed impossible to follow, Hajime had drawn Donna and began firing while Yue used her finger as a baton, creating a dragon with the body of a tornado.

Six of Hajime's bullets shot out in a flash, landing in the forehead of the boss cockroach at the same place and time. The boss cockroaches head explodes, and which is blown off, sending it into a tailspin once again.

Meanwhile the black tidal wave was engulfed with the colors of five dragons. The thunder dragon left only remnants of roaches while the blue dragon annihilated them completely. The ice dragon froze them while the stone dragon petrified them, 100,000 at a time.

“You’re playing through them quickly, will you run out?”

“... Even without material, I’ll play.”

While the cockroaches rain down like a torrential downpour, the boss continues to take in small cockroaches with each movement in a move that only feels desperate. Yue and Hajime’s voices could be heard, looking up with crescent shaped mouths and laughter like devils.

It probably wasn’t a conscious action. It was a more instinctual thing. It’s instinctually realized that it touched a presence that should never ever be touched and became an enemy.

“Gigi iiii!!”

The boss cockroach clad in the black smoke of corrosion began to panic and gave a scream. More small cockroaches were called, and as they approached the boss they became clad in the black corrosion as well before compressing.

The smoke seems to compress into a black shell, creating hundreds of shots. And of course, the shells maintain the corrosive properties. So the boss was creating corrosive ammunition out of the small cockroaches. Effects of the instantaneous corrosion and compression left an uneven smoke.

The boss released a shockwave, sending out the corrosive shells which struck and corroded a branch aisle the moment it was pierced. It headed for Hajime and the rest rapidly.

“.... Wasteful.”

Yue uttered a word. Shortly after, a gate forms right in front of Hajime and Yue and spreads. The spatial magic does a spatial field that becomes an invincible shield at the same time. The shell that would corrode anything the instant it lands, couldn’t avoid passing through the developed gate and disappearing into somewhere. It’s a perfectly wasteful ball as Yue had said.

But the boss cockroach, now in a complete state of panic can only half acknowledge that. Averting the orbit while screaming, it bypasses the

gate to rush at Yue. However, the gate wasn't simply a place to banish the cannonballs away.

"Kyiii!?"

Just after increasing its speed and detouring, it struck something in the air, and as it was caught it became a whole body crucifixion.

"Its movements are simple. Is its mind still only that of a cockroach?" Hajime murmurs so next to Yue as he makes his stone ring react.

The ring had been connected to the bola beforehand. The boss cockroach expected a route, its eyes on the gate while Hajime established the bola in the air simultaneously.

And the wire used for this bola is extra fine, so-called steel thread. Steel thread could be stretched as the effect given by generation magic "sign insulation" concealed an ore part of the bola, and a cobweb might be spread in the air.

The boss cockroach had rammed into the net, ready to catch it if the cockroach touched. And carefully, the bola matched the impact of the rush and entangled, securing the boss cockroach in the air as it is.

While spitting curses and strangely trusting each other, the pair continued to fight back to back without hesitation, sharing in the defense and attack without requiring a wink of conversation...

Were these guys really hating each other under the emotion reversal? If the boss cockroach could say words, it surely would have grandly Tsukkomi'd asking as such.

"I wonder, Yue..."

"... Hmm?"

Hajime inclines his neck while spearing the eye of the boss cockroach, continuing to harass it while it remained crucified in his web.

"I think my feelings of hate are starting to fade... it's about halfway gone now. I'm able to stand it."

"... coincidence. I also feel that Hajime is bearable. And with the

cockroaches, I don't feel the need to love them."

"Oh, indeed."

Tio guessed that the emotion reversal was another trial of the great labyrinth. Like the pleasure hell that chooses viscous liquid of milky slime, Hajime also inferred that it could be conquered. After all, it'd be a troublesome place if you're feeling reverse could never be conquered and you ended up hating your partners forever.

However, Hajime and Yue fought together to overcome it by nature, or so it seems.

Potential? After having your spirit upset by feeling the reversal, and the cruel treatment center filled with making the boss cockroach, the feeling of turning back may be tempting.

Alternatively, it may be that the two of them exerted a simple and mysterious ability of creating pink space anytime, anywhere.

In any case, it reminded Hajime of a quote about "every time not being a possibility" that certain working authorities once murmured.

"Well, Yue, since you're acting playfully, how about one last game with Mr. Cockroach?"

"... Nn. Winning is possible if you like your opponent."

Again, two people show a smile that could only come from a devil. Absolutely, are we sure they had a feeling's reversal? Is that really likely? An observer might have tsukkumi'd.

The boss cockroach has finished restoring its body and managed to sneak out of the bola's restriction with the use of the black smoke of corrosion. It wore black smoke and again produces three to six shock waves and a vacuum blade with a flap of its wings.

However, the boss cockroach shouldn't be negligent. Up to this moment, Hajime had been pulling his hand. He refused to use heinous weapons, no direct attacks by powerful magic. Not even attack while playing. He was playing to the full level.

Things that were not perceived were the complete lack of aggressive intention. Demon or not, the creatures body showed the miserable result.

Hajime appeared at the back of the boss cockroach, inserting centrifugal force with body strengthening, hammering down with an aerial turning kick into the back of the boss cockroach with an instant move.

“Giiiii!?”

The boss cockroach which made a noise curved like a shrimp with its shell in the air and blew away. The black smoke of corrosion should have been worn, but with Hajime covered in bright red magic, it did not seem to affect him at all.

Blown away at intense Gs, the boss cockroach desperately tried to regain its balance. Yue appears from a spatial change right in front of the boss cockroach, waving her had slightly in front of it.

Immediately after, space become Gyobo! A shock wave with some directionality makes a noise, and shrinks, and generates the power by which space turns back at the next moment.

“GIIII!?”

The boss cockroach which is assaulted by a dreadful impact from the front like a pinball this time blows off in the direction of the day after tomorrow. The surface of the body is ragged already, but that’s just the start.

Hajime had already moved position. Once again, an intense kick blows the cockroach away. Blown away, and still, to Yue, blown again. Back to Hajime.

Hajime and Yue hit each other, such as the air tennis with a boss cockroach ball. Echoing are the heartbreaking cries of the boss cockroach in the vast underground space. The boss is moving so fast and irregularly that the swarms of cockroaches are unable to have time to help.

The corrosive smoke doesn’t affect Hajime and doesn’t touch Yue to begin with. Yue’s body is able to repair any damage before she’s even

aware, so there is no risk of dying.

Their play seems to be the doing of devils and fiends. Using up and playing with their love by this trial in the labyrinth might have turned them into such.

Further, a rule of the game is loss of the person who failed in the rally first.

"…. Hajime."

And, in the middle of their rally, suddenly received sense talk from Yue. Because they are moving at high speed with changing distances, this was necessary. Hajime replies while flicking the boss cockroach with an overhead kick.

"What happened?"

"Oh,… Hajime."

"Mm. What is it?"

"Hajime… Hajime… Hajime… Nn…."

Yue just kept calling Hajime's name repeatedly by sense talk for a while. The tone seemed to be changing into something more spoiled like. Hajime begins to notice it in the tone. In the feeling.

"Yue, back?"

"… Nn… perfection. For Hajime?"

"Yes, me too… there is only pure malice for this cockroach any more, and for Yue…"

"…. Me?"

Hajime packs in a word without leaving a torrent of the feelings taken away. Such as having the opposite feeling for Yue even for just a moment. He didn't want to think about it. The violent malice as well as the anger for the boss cockroach rose up once again, but he had to say the words to his sweetheart where there were once cruel words.

When he took a deep breath, Hajime used sense talk while looking at

Yue, who had changed ahead of the boss cockroach and blew it straight for Hajime.

“There is only love.”

“Nn... me too.”

The voice that seems wonderful and sounds dear to Hajime. Feelings of thousands of emotions were included and the word floods through his chest. Hajime and Yue stay in the air just as it is, saying only those words with patience even if it has to be seen. The boss cockroach with discharged body fluid flied overhead, but the two people’s eyes don’t look away. It was just Yue and Hajime.

They say nothing, when the distance between them disappear, and two people embrace in midair. Their lips meet naturally. Light kiss without words, only just touch, as if the thought was more than enough.

Hajime holds Yue’s slender waist and Yue wraps her arm around Hajime. Their lips release as the two of them confirm that the feelings inside them are normal once again, staring close distance, with smiles on their faces.

The boss cockroach which had finished playing around at that point gave them some distraction. With a scream, it dispatched cockroaches which rised up simultaneously.

That won’t be the light one such as tidal waves any more. They were forcibly trying to close the space with cockroaches. A huge dome began to form heading up towards Yue and Hajime. Hajime had long since lost track of what happened to Kouki and the others.

The dome was filled with black smoke of corrosion. When seen from the outside, the surface seemed to rustle, the mountain rising where it could be seen. The underground space where the big tree was made at the center was buried with a mountain of cockroaches, mostly.

The cockroaches had managed to accumulate not just at the bottom, but also the ceiling and walls as well. If someone said all the cockroaches in the world were gathered here, it’d not be surprising.

And the space was closing quickly with cockroaches in the next moment GoGYUUU! It was reduced quickly with the sounds that suggested so.

Will they be crushed to death or captured inside of the ocean of cockroaches? The center is of course Yue and Hajime. At the end of the underground space, there was Shia striking down a medium-sized cockroach and leaving it for Kouki's group to defeat. They also seem to have exceeded the pile of cockroaches a short while ago. It also seems to come off from an area by a compressed thing.

The boss cockroach is entering a reduced sphere directly while flapping. Closed space of a hug cockroach was in the compressed state so that there were no gaps to the interior already.

"Gichichichichichichichi!"

The boss cockroach makes an unpleasant sound. That seemed to be an attempt to clear it's former humiliation as a ball, and it seemed to be the roar convinced of a victory.

But that will be overturned immediately after. A cockroach was repelled from a spherical center, trying to find the dead body from the center of the sphere of cockroaches.

"Oh, you want a fervent embrace?"

Yue, putting both hands together, was seen there with her eyes closed to concentrate. Next to her is Hajime, who laughs dauntlessly within the 4 point barrier.

The boss cockroach stops, instinctively taking a step back.

The fear of being teased by these two people ran deep, but that's because the power they exuded was feared above all else.

A gap formed that Yue could put out both hands together. They flash blue, and in the meantime a small group of flames begin to swirl around.

When seeing that, they seem to have just done the flame systems finest aggressive spell "blue sky". When ordinarily thinking, making "blue sky"

can excel in some small extermination. It'd seem like an insignificant act.

But genius magician Yue wouldn't do such a nonsense thing.

The blue flame between the two hands, the splendor is increased from moment to moment. On the contrary, it kept burning. It's as if looking to crate small stars.

"... Selection." Yue muttered quietly.

Then, the finished fist-sized orb oozes blue aura.

The bead of blue flame which contains a power and identity that was unknown.

That one was for the boss cockroach. The cockroach realized it'd be completely destroyed. If not, they'd make it understand. The cockroach let out a scream, pushing cockroaches and black smoke against the four point boundary to break it and kill the pair and break the orb before it was too late.

However, the action was too late too. Well no, whatever action the cockroach would take would be the same thing. There's no way to stop it now.

Yue hung the blue flame orb towards the
sky. Yue illuminated Blue Star gave its own appearance that
was far too mysterious and beautiful. Hajime gently hugged Yue's body frc had entrusted her back to Hajime to fawn after all.

And,

"... Divine flame."

Like the judgement of god himself, the pulsating blue overran the entire place.

Chapter 132 : One Hope

As always, this is a not a direct translation, but a rewrite on my interpretation of the MTLs. All credit goes to the original author Chuuni Suki

Translation Note: FYI, When Tio talks, the MTL translate it that she refers the Hajime as “Husband” and herself as his “concubine” or “whore”. I’ve been changing it to “Master” and “Mistress” because I think it fits the S&M theme a little better as well as the other translations.

* * *

“Divine Flame,” she commanded in a pretty voice edged with cruelty.

Shortly after, the function of the annihilation magic became apparent.

The blue flame began to pulsate with a Dukan sound. Blue light spread around the underground space and began to swell from inside. As the ripples spread like ripple of water triggered by a drop of water, there seemed to be an ominous quite that was devoid of mercy.

The cockroaches that were touched by the blue light did not offer even the slightest resistance, merely disappearing without even ash remaining.

At the sight of this divine flame, the boss cockroach ran like a scared rabbit, a scream was caught in the light of the spreading blue that ballooned away from Yue before the boss cockroach unceremoniously disappeared without another sound.

Without the boss cockroach, the small and medium cockroaches that were being fought by Shia and Kouki’s group became confused at the loss of leadership, and became trivial nuisances. The blue light continued to spread, it swallowed the cockroaches around Shia as well.

As the flame spread out, Kouki and the others watched it approach with anxious looks.

It wasn’t unreasonable for them to feel rushed. They were able to see the destruction in front of them.

The reason was clear. Kouki, Shia, and the others weren't sure whether the flame that destroyed the cockroaches so completely would hurt them as well. However, it was not simply Shia and the rest that remained unharmed. The large tree trunk and branches remained intact as well.

They gave Hajime and Yue surprised looks when they realized that the flame that spread across the underground space and completely devastated the cockroaches only affected those cockroaches.

–Divine Flame

A flame type superlative magic which shot "blue flames" rapidly 10 times into the space around and compressed it with gravity magic. Yue further specified the magic with "selection" using spirit magic, so that it avoided those whom contained souls. (Translation Note: Cockroaches don't go to heaven)

Anyone Yue permits survives while it seeks out those she sets as an enemy.

That is, indeed, suitable to be called art. It wouldn't be unreasonable to say that a god named Yue passed judgement from heaven.

"Unexpected magic... Indeed expected from Yue."

"Nn... Praise me more, please?"

As the light of the flames started to go out, the voices of the two of them echoed in the underground space.

Indeed Yue showed some signs of exhaustion, so Hajime gave Yue a big hug in reward for her hard work. Yue wrapped her arms around Hajime's neck and allowed her entire body to relax against him. And just like that, she kissed his neck, followed by the sound of sucking as she bit and lapped up his blood.

"When saying it like that, I wonder who won this match."

While Yue stuck to the scruff of Hajime's neck and drank his blood, he held her with one arm, while gently stroking her hair with the other. And so he was reminded of and questioned the outcome of the game the pair

of them had started.

“…. Nn, haa… Nn. My win. Hajime will not disagree.”

Yue separates from Hajime with an ecstatic expression, her eyes were as bewitching as always as she licked her lips.

“Yue, I must ask, does it really matter how won or lost, does it mean so much?”

“… Hehe. Well, then, I guess we can put that aside for now.”

As the pair of them spoke casually, discussing things ‘just in case’, there came another loud voice.

“Are you guys going to flirt forever, or can you rejoin the rest of us!”

“Yes! Yue is cheating! Hajime-kun and I are… anyway, please return!”

It was Shia and Kaori. They were beckoning us to return right alongside Kouki and the rest. Tio merely shrugged her shoulders. They were trying to take their feelings into account and had been waiting. Kouki and the others looked a bit uncomfortable, Suzu and Shizuku had their eyes lowered and blushes on their cheeks. It looked like they had been watching Yue and Hajime from a distance.

From their reactions, it looked like their feelings had returned to normal as well. Hajime didn’t know if they had returned under their own power or if it was the result of the boss cockroach dying.

The pair stared at each other and gave another light kiss before returned to a place beside Shia.

“You kissed so casually at the end…”

“I’m envious… but… but… It’s good to see you’re safe. Although I felt like… “not only you!” or “me too!” but I don’t want to sound selfish…”

“Indeed, as expected of Yue and Hajime. Battling in a world alone, tossing him around like a toy, it wasn’t as pitiful as expected.”
(Translation Note: I think this is Tio claiming she wishes she was the boss cockroach getting kicked around by Hajime, lol).

There were three people which came away with three different responses, but it was Shia's words that had the biggest impact. Hajime gives her a hug with one hand without releasing Yue. She doesn't seem to mind at all. However, Kouki and company wore mixed expressions over his nerve.

"... Did you recover your feelings on your own?"

"You could say I return on the way, yes..."

"Would, um. May I ask that you had returned to normal without help?"

Kaori looks doubtful about Yue's question to Shia. Tio adds the explanation while forcing a smile.

"You may say that I also returned without help. I assume that the trigger was jealousy over the war declaration between master and Yue? This mistress was envious of their fervent love. However, soon they did not even bother with the cockroaches, just each other.... Was that the same for Shia and Kaori as well?"

"Yes, it was..."

"Yup..."

So it was that sort of thing. Hajime glanced over to Kouki's group to see how they were doing.

"....." X3

"Well, -how is it? The last cockroach to die was back to being unpleasant."

Shizuku appeared to be the only one to recover on her own. It was expected of Shizuku given her mental strength. Kouki and the others must have received even more damage as they had to watch their lovable cockroaches die all the way to the very end.

A bit later, Shia was asking Yue about the magic from a short while ago. Suddenly, a portion of the large tree near the ceiling started shining. While helping Kouki's party recover from their damages, Hajime observed a Mekimeki sound, followed by a giant branch which began to grow anew.

The branch created a new aisle as its length increase little by little. Hajime and the others remained in the four point aisle from the start of the cockroach attack until the fifth branch joined up to their intersection. The branch aisle had come from the ceiling, so it took the form of a stairway which led them up the branch to the heavens.

After a brief look at each other, Hajime and the rest hurried to follow the newly formed path.

However, Yue was holding Hajime tightly. Yue wouldn't let go and Hajime didn't try to separate. That was fine, afterall. However, Kaori also pulled from the left while a sullen Shia pulled from the right. Meanwhile, Tio clung from the back. It goes without saying that Kouki and company watched this with indescribable expressions.

When they finished climbing the fifth branch aisle, they entered another cave-like room. Hajime remained on his guard and before long a magic circle glowed and they found themselves teleported once again.

After the light settled, they could see that they were in a garden that spread out right in front of them.

The sky felt alarmingly close.

The air seemed clean. The ground spread out to roughly the size of high school gymnasium. There were trees which were relatively small and a small chalky building which had various waterways spreading out from it.

Twines surrounded the largest tree, which sat in a small island circled by canals, a central stone lithograph sitting at its base.

Tio walked into the garden, peeping over the edge.

"What do you think, master? It looks to be the top of the tree here."

Others glance towards the bottom from the end of the garden after Tio's word too. It's a vast sea of clouds and an unmistakable thick fog spread out under their eyes.

"Hey, this is strange. When we flew over the sea of trees, we had crossed

the dense woodland and saw no tree this big. No tree could crest the thick fog, this height must be up over 200 meters at least. It's impossible to be seeing from a tree this high." (Translation Note: To put that in perspective, the largest skyscrapers are around 450 meters, so they're high, but not that high. On the other hand, the world's tallest tree is only ~116 meters)

Hajime noticed the humor of his remark after saying it. After all, the upper part sticking out from the thick fog would only be natural, especially considering the size of the tree as seen from the ground expanding across the dense woodland.

Nevertheless, you would think that the large trees size would have been verifiable before now.

"... I see. It is concealing magic which is doing this?"

"... It is, like some kind of shadow system form of spirit magic... or is it just shifting space?"

Yue considered the magic based on Hajime's inference. If it's shadow magic, there should be some form of recognition obstruction, but the scaling is strange. If this were like spirit magic, they would be conscious of the alterations being made with the magic of the soul. However, they weren't aware of any discomfort, which would be impossible considering Yue's skill.

Hajime and his group wore impressed looks. Although they had experienced a number of trials and had managed to keep the nastiness to a minimum, there was still the liberator. Although ordinarily, the liberators did not seem ill-natured.

"Is this the goal here?" Hajime muttered.

This caused Kouki and the others to where startled expressions. "Here.... Finally..."

Hajime ignored them and walked directly to the lithograph.

The group crossed a pretty arch and entered a yen-like small island circled by a channel. The lithograph began to glow as they approached,

the bright green magic flowing into the channel. So it functioned like a magic circle? Phosphorescence like fireflies raised flickeringly.

The sense to probe a memory and then inscribe knowledge by force. Hajime and the others were familiar with this. A raised voice groaned as some one else behind him was “struck” with shock and a sense of discomfort.

As the knowledge flowed into Hajime, the tree began to entangle around the lithograph and swell.

Hajime and the others assume a posture of struggle. The shape of the tree began to change, tearing away branches as it formed. Phosphorescence rose away from Hajime, forming into the image of a person’s face in the middle of the trunk. It takes on a female appearance from the shoulders up.

The person’s form is complete; the woman’s eyes open. Then, the mouth opens gently.

“First of all, I’d like to say congratulations. You’ve defeated several of the great labyrinths. I am Luluo Haltina, and I prepared the Haltina (Sea of Trees) Great Labyrinth. I apologize for the very difficult trials I prepared with the maximum regard.”

She seemed to have used the tree as a medium for her recording. This was the form instead of Oscar’s “pictures”. Luluo felt dignified like she might be connected to some form of royalty. Although some of that feeling may come from the tree stem itself, which split around her like hair, and contained a certain kind of beauty.

“However, it is also necessary. If you came through the dungeons of the other liberators, then you know about our relationship with the gods, the past tragedy, and what’s happening right now. Therefore, I wanted you the learn something about the unwavering bond that can’t be swayed, a heart that can’t be shaken. I think you who arrived here surely understand something about the strength of the heart as well as its weaknesses. I’m wishing sincerely that that is of assistance to you in the future.”

Shia listened to Luluo Haltina's talk with a meek face. But Hajime was already impatient. He didn't need pretentious excuses. For once, however, he quietly read the air.

"I do not know for what purpose you sought my magic, -"sublimation" magic, you are free to use it as you see fit. However, stick to your bonds, and do not drown in power."

Hajime was already looking around restlessly. How is it? Even if he watched it, it wouldn't change anything. He was already considering removing the lithograph to shut her off and move on already.

"My god level magic "sublimation" is the power to make everything evolve. That is the knowledge that is given. But, true value of this magic is found elsewhere."

Hajime's eyes widened for a moment. The hand that was hovering over Donner was returned to his side, and his eyes rested on Luluo. The real value of sublimation magic wasn't given in the knowledge. Tell me that first! Hajime pointed a blaming look.

"Sublimation magic makes the "power" of everything be sublimated, literally. The other god-level magics are no exception for that.... Gravity magic, spirit magic, alteration, space magic... these mighty forces are the foundation of the management. All of which lead to further evolution... even when combined with each other. This magic would be better called "Magic concepts".

Someone made a gulping sound, resonating the desire for such a magic.

Hajime also had his eyes opened wide in surprise. At one time, in Miledi's Raisen's labyrinth, she suggested that if he obtained all the god's level magic, he might be able to find something that would grant his desires. He needed to obtain god generation magic. It probably meant this.

"Concept magic – is the meaning which is just as it sounds. The magical manifestation of how magic acts in this world. Even if you obtain the god-level magic, it cannot be used so easily, because concept magic is invented by utmost will, not theory."

So that was the reason it couldn't be copied by magical circle.

After hearing the explanation, Hajime frowned. "Utmost will"... if it's an explanation done so lightly.

"We seven liberators worked over the course of decades and only managed three magical concepts. However, that was enough for us... but which one will you need?"

Just as Luluo said so, the lithographic center slides and something like a pocket watch comes out from the inside. Hajime takes it into his hand. One needle of the same length was fixed on a plate in the center of the semitransparent lid. On the backside was a pattern painted in the form Luluo Haltina used. Apparently, it also serves as a proof of capture. Luluo resumed her explanation.

"For the name, it's called the "compass of desire". The concept that, when activated, shows the place I desired." (Translation Note: Pirate's of the Caribbean anyone? Drink up, my me hearties you ho!)

Hajime heard the explanation and his heart skipped a beat.

"The place I desired is shown." That means...

"It will lead you to the location to want to go. Anything, anywhere, be it hidden or – even in another world."

"....."

The "different world" Luluo is talking about will be the world by which the Mad Gods reside. The liberators must have used concept magic out of utmost will. To beat the gods, of course.

Therefore, this compass was produced to find the place where god was. Hajime was certain Oscar helped make this compass using the concept magic as well as his generation magic.

But – it should also be possible to use this compass to show them how to return to Japan.

A means to return home was found... delight welled in Hajime's chest like he might burst. Yue clenched his hand and gave him a firm squeeze,

looking up at him gently.

"To get all the god's magic, if that is your goal, you'll be able to travel anywhere. I wish you to move forward with free will and find happiness in your life. Good luck for your future."

Luluo had come to the end of her words after giving her speech, all that was left was the tree with the entangled lithograph.

They remained immersed in the afterglow in silence as if chewing on the events that just happened to their satisfaction. Only the sound of the rustling of leaves as the wind blew gently affected their vicinity.

It was Hajime that broke the stillness, asking Yue with a monotonous tone of controlled emotion. "Yue, just to hear it, using the magic of sublimation, combined with spatial magic. Can we cross to another world?"

Startled movements spread across Kouki's group behind him.

Yue understood the weight of those words and the exploration of that potential. And with the strongest magic user with the knowledge of the god's inscribed in her mind, she searched for a solution.

As result, she obtained the answer...

"…. I'm sorry."

"Really..."

Just that. If the world can be exceeded simply by mixing spatial magic with sublimation, then certainly the liberators wouldn't have had so much trouble, too.

Luluo has said that there were three concept magics that had been produced. The first concept was given to the "compass of desire". It would stand to reason that the other concepts would be the concept to go to another world and the concept to overthrow the gods.

In other words, when not attaining to concept magic, the idea of leaving the world is difficult.

Yue was hanging her head dejectedly at being unable to meet Hajime's

expectations. Hajime gave her a kind smile and combed his fingers quietly through her beautiful gold hair. Yue seemed ticklish, looking upward at Hajime and shrugging her shoulders as he ran his fingers over her skin.

"It's no problem. I was being greedy. It was just a thought. We just need more god-level magic. We just need to get the right one, and you'll definitely be able to figure it out, so don't have such a face."

The heart that was impatient at the thought they might be able to return had already recovered its poise, and Hajime shrugs his shoulders with the expressions he had to spare. In answer to whether Yue was relieved at his recovery, like usual she snuggled close to him.

"Cough, Cough. Well... is Yue and Hajime back to normal? I think a shortcut formed for us to return to entrance. So less lovey dovey for now!"

Shia, while looking at Yue and Hajime, interrupted their pink space while saying "Yes, as always", certainly in one corner of the garden the magic circle appeared. As Shia suggested that would be the shortcut to descend back to the ground level.

After checking the magic circle, Hajime strokes Shia's bunny ears to correct some of her sulkiness. Then Kouki starts to speak up.

"Oh... hey, Nagumo. A short while ago when... you received the concept magic..."

"Yeah... we should be able to return now. At least, this compass will tell me where to head next."

"Really..."

Kouki wore an expression as if hope was lost. Ryuutaro, Shizuku, and Suzu also wore feelings that looked ready to explode, like they might start crying at any second. They were hesitating over the lack of getting the god-level magic, but only because Hajime was there for the moment. It seemed like they would have to depend on Hajime.

"The, a, as for that, Nagumo. When returning..."

Suzu tries to ask Hajime about something.

Even if she didn't say it, it was possible to guess. They remembered Hajime's indifference to his classmates. That they might only be able to return if Hajime does it for them... Reserve goes out when perfect salvation depends on the benevolence of another being straight through.

Suzu, as the typical mood manufacturer, was either in a good place or a bad place as she tried to talk and stir around the subject of returning home. The thought was they could return naturally too, but... that was groundless, and... Well, Hajime didn't hate this kind of thing.

"Be relieved. There won't be any capacity restrictions or demerits. I'll return everyone if I can."

"It is, taken along or... eehehe. Thank you, Nagumo-san."

"For the fact that you had so little confidence. You didn't really do anything, did you?"

"Ugh!"

Kouki, Ryuutaro, and Suzu hang their heads to their chests.

With just sublimation magic, the ability of every magic can be raised a bit. Of course, when you already had god-level magic, the necessity to sublimate it would look more like a limit breakthrough without the side effects, so there would also be some restrictions. Like Rebirth without the side effects or something like that.

Still, they seemed unconfident. It should be said that they couldn't get sublimation magic. But also that it could be expected. It was that the tests were flawed and exploitable that they made it to the end in the first place.

But as such, Kouki and the others hanged their heads. Still, one person tried to follow awkwardly with the circumstances.

"Yaegashi... you seem to be able to use the new magic?" Hajime asked.

"!... Oh, I think that, I can use it, yes."

"Ho! Is that true?"

“That was really it? You’ve learned it?”

“Indeed, Shizu, Shizu! Suzu’s Bride!”

This also could be expected. Shizuku had been through the pleasure hell, a dream of the ideal world, and having her feelings reversed all without help. Even if her battle ability wasn’t enough, the god-level magic was worth getting just from the mental power she had to fight through.

It was heartwarming, but it seemed like Suzu was the only one who appreciated that fact purely. Ryuutaro wore a mortified expression while Kouki wore ominous shadows in his expressions while he praised with a smiling face.

Shizuku watched Kouki with an anxious look at that.

“Anyway, back to Fair Bergen again. Slowly. Hordes of cockroaches was light trauma. Serious mental damage. Yue needs to heal with spirit.”

“Kufufufu. I’ll fix you right up.”

“I, I too! I’ll put my head on your lap, too! Yue’s already done enough! I’m on top of this!”

“It’s because everything is done! Because everything is done! I say it twice because it’s important!”

“The tired master should step on mistress! It’ll be good. I make the mistress chair replacement so you can relax. Do you have a firm foothold separately? You may stamp as much as you like?”

As Hajime walked to the magic circle while cuddling with Yue, Shia and the rest crowd around him from left, right, and behind.

Hajime wrapped a hand around Shia’s arm while giving a little laugh. Shia gives a start, but seems happy and grasps back. Kaori and Tio think Shia is given priority somehow and turn to look at her with envious eyes.

Shizuku follows behind watching the view with a bright expression while considering the possibility of going home.

One boy wore a smile and chose to understand it that way at least, and thus the capture of one of the seven great labyrinths, the Sea of Trees,

was complete.

Chapter 133 : Shizuku's Confusion

As always, this is a not a direct translation, but a rewrite on my interpretation of the MTLs. All credit goes to the original author Chuuni Suki

* * *

The depths of the forest of Fair Bergen felt particularly peaceful and calming that morning.

The twitter of a nearby bird stirred in the air like a ripple across the water's surface. It seemed to be a gentle music, floating along with the tone of rustling leaves.

However, in a particularly unremarkable part of Fair Bergen out of public eye, there sounded a different kind of noise.

Hugh! Hugh! Hugh!

"Up! Hah! Oh! "

It was sharp sound of air splitting combined with short breaths. With each sound, a black line cut through the air, splitting the morning fog. The black sword moved naturally through the air like flowing water.

The sword wielder's movements were extremely refined, and when combined with her flowing black hair, resembled a dance dedicated to the gods.

The black sword and black hair moved near the path of a falling leaf, arcing in a circular pattern. The leaf fell within the sword's path and was immediately dispersed, beads of sweat scattering into the mist.

For how many hours did she dance with the earth? The ground was carved with her footprints, and there were an immeasurable number of destroyed leaves at her feet.

However, her blurred form moved tirelessly, fighting against her own exhaustion. Her form was innocent, yet beautiful to behold, each strike with the sword performed in earnest.

“—hah.”

Shizuku’s eternal blade dance suddenly met disorder. Her sword missed the leaf by a quarter of an inch. The centrifugal force of her spin caused her to lose her balance.

Shizuku barely managed to avoid tumbling. With a bitter face, she put the black sword to her side.

“Hah, hah, well...”

Shizuku shook her head in irritation. Her trademark raven-black ponytail whipped left to right, echoing her sentiment.

“Clear your mind, clear as water.”

Taking a deep breath, she remembered to put her mind at peace and to calm her heart. It was an exercise she had learned in Japan while she practiced fencing. Shizuku’s troubled heart regained its tranquility quickly.

However, the figure of a boy emerged from that calmness...

“Nuaaa!!!”

While gallantly shouting in an unladylike manner, she swung her black sword as if to beat away at the image in her mind.

“Different, different! That is why! It’s different!”

The waters of her mind were turbulent, not a single sense of calm anywhere. Like a typhoon ravaging the sea, Shizuku’s mind rampaged.

“This is all different, and I don’t know the meaning. I’m calm, I’m cool.”

By all odds, she was far from calm. Her heart seemed to scream at her incoherently.

In fact, she had spent the entire day trying to calm herself, but her sword wouldn’t listen, the state of her mind shown in its choppy movements and her negligent footwork.

She was trying to shake off the disturbance in her heart with discipline and training.

Why, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say Shizuku spent all night focusing on that.

Yesterday, Hajime and the rest had returned from the Haltina Great Labyrinth and chose to rest immediately. Shizuku got a meal and a bath before immediately going to bed, of course. However, she couldn't sleep for some reason, her mind turbid. Though it was midnight, she left her bed, the black sword in hand.

And it was that boy who kept rising to the surface of her mind, causing her to suffer the mental anguish when idle.

"Sie! Sie! See!!!"

Her shout got rougher after each strike.

It was the unpleasant events of the large labyrinth that she couldn't avoid thinking about.

It had started after they were brought into that world of dreams. When Shizuku remembered the sweet world, it caused her to blush, but it was also painful... Her ideal world... was something she could never tell anyone.

She tried to reject the inner maiden within her heart.

"Uryaaa!!!"

This caused her to think about the final trial of the great labyrinth. The unexpected content of her reversed feelings. It wasn't the fact that she had felt love for the black creatures. No, it was her extreme dislike for a certain boy... she didn't have the urge to kill him, but her thoughts were certainly hateful.

That is...

"It's different. Friendship. It's friendship Bonzai!"

She lost her composure with the sword. It seemed to stem from the collapse of her character. The black sword swung in vain, the wind switching around crudely. Shizuku grimaced in displeasure as the shadow of that boy floated in her vision like a phantom, a hateful smile on his

face. If one of her classmates saw this, they'd be shocked.

Shizuku continued to swing the sword recklessly, trying to bring back the peace and remove her confusion. To shake off and deny it. She wanted to convince herself that it was all a misunderstanding.

With fatigue setting in, Shizuku's feelings started to regain their original stillness. As to the cause of her turmoil, that was, of course, the nature of the Great Labyrinth, an eccentric environment that created a temporary loss of propriety. Her heart finally settled down, even if she thought about him. Back to normal.

"Fuaaa!"

She slowly expelled a breath. She closed her eyes and remained in the darkness, sweat dripping down her pale skin, an eloquent sight to the morning. With her body wet, hair sticking to her cheeks, hot breath coming from her lips, it can only be described as slightly sexy.

As Shizuku indulged in the lingering calmness, a voice spoke up.

"As I'd expect from Shizuku."

"Ahh!?"

Shizuku's heart jumped through her throat at the sound of a familiar voice. The tone disturbed her peace. The thought "How is this expected?" came without anyone to tsukkomi. Shizuku glanced back at the voice with these turbulent thoughts in her mind.

The expected person, Hajime, stood there. She had not felt any sign of his approach from her training.

"Nagumo-kun. Don't scare me like that, it is poor tastes to stand behind me."

Shizuku gave a smile while her heart pounded and throbbed uncomfortably.

Confronting Hajime while he took her chastising...

"... Have... Pufu!"

"!!"

Her chastising was repeated but only received laughter. He could only react to her colorful criticism with humor. However, because her cheeks were dyed slightly, her statement had very little weight.

That awareness is like a splinter hurled at her consciousness.

"And you... you..."

Hajime, still slightly laughing at her remark, gives an apology and tossed her a towel from his treasure warehouse. Realizing that she was covered in sweat, she began to wipe herself with a surge of panic and a strange sense of embarrassment.

"I wasn't looking to disturb you. I just woke up early. I was looking for a suitable place to train and came across Yaegashi. I wanted to see how you're doing. Are you doing well?"

"I am... I just couldn't get any sleep."

"Well, you did conquer your first large labyrinth. I suppose you're still excited?"

"Oh, well..."

It was certainly exciting in a different way, and there was an increase in strength. However, Shizuku couldn't say it and averted her eyes.

The suspicious act caused Hajime to narrow his eyes and tilt his head with a puzzled look.

Shizuku ended up losing more of her composure.

She looked restless, uncomfortable, fidgety...

"... Yaegashi, have you been feeling any strangeness, any aftereffects?"

"Oh? You could say I'm fine. Yes, completely healthy! Rather, in the best condition."

"If you say so... but you look very tired, and you're acting suspiciously."

"Suspicious behavior? Coming from you? I am ordinary! You're the one who is standing behind people thoughtlessly!"

“You’re usually cool as ice (TN: he refers to her as a hitman)… always calm…”

Though Shizuku was obviously not normal, she insisted she was, so Hajime decided to stop worrying about it. He put on that kind of look before approaching Shizuku.

Shizuku suddenly panicked at Hajime’s sudden approach. She pushed both hands out in front to put up a barrier between the two of them.

“What? Why are you coming towards me? Please wait a moment. Sweaty! Territory Violation! Calm down! Do you want the towel? But it’s all… Not good. I’ll return it once it’s washed! So please stop!”

“… Something is definitely wrong… I only want to see your black sword.”

As Hajime approached her, the attitude Shizuku presented while stepping backward was that as if she was being approached by a pervert.

“Oh? My Black sword? Something like that…”

“I can reinforce it. It’s something I figured out thanks to the sublimation magic. If you’d rather I didn’t, that’s fine…”

“You can… If you do, I’m thankful.”

Shizuku timidly showed him the edge of her black sword. It seemed he didn’t intend to get any closer.

Shizuku was acting more and more suspicious to Hajime, but he supposed she didn’t want to get close to someone after sweating so much, so he gave a shrug.

Hajime grabbed the black sword and stamped his foot. Instantly, the ground rose into the form of a chair and table. He sat down in the chair and pulled various ores out of the treasure warehouse while displaying the black sword in front of him. (Translation Note: The summary says he pulled them from his storage, but the MTL made it seem like he transmogrified it from the ground, that was his thing for quite a while, after all.)

While watching this, Shizuku took the chair opposite of Hajime’s while

wearing a gloomy and restless expression.

“.....”

“.....”

There was no conversation. As Hajime fiddled with the ore, only the sounds of small birds chirping and the whispers of leaves could be heard, and the morning peace and calm returned.

However, Shizuku did not feel particularly uncomfortable. Although there was some tension between her and Hajime initially, the silence did well to help her regain her peace of mind.

Hajime doesn’t spare Shizuku a single glance, deep in concentration. Hajime’s pupils take on a serious expression, brightened by red magic. As Hajime’s hands moved, crimson magical light altered the composition of the minerals themselves.

Shizuku’s thoughts were like “as expected, it’s beautiful” as she watched Hajime’s face while he worked. She started to doze off, her head falling to her shoulder and elbows. After staying up all night, drowsiness was the consequence.

In the middle of the work, Hajime took her hand and extracted a drop of blood. The act startled Shizuku and almost caused her to fall from her chair.

As the moments passed on, Shizuku began to fall into a sense of strange comfort, her eyes once again growing heavy. Then Hajime’s voice spoke up.

“Look, it’s done, Yaegashi.”

“....”

“Yaegashi?”

“....”

“You’re asleep?”

Her arm functioned as a pillow for her head. Hajime squinted at her

face, observing that her eyes were closed. He looked in amazement at the defenseless expression she wore as she slept.

Normally, one would wake them up gently, or perhaps put a jacket over them. Hajime instead shoved magic power into the sword and presses it against Shizuku, activating one of its functions.

“Baribaribaribaribaribari.” (electric shock)

“Abababababababa.” (sound of someone being electrocuted)

Sparks gushed out the blade. Shizuku made a scream, stiffening up and springing to her feet in an instant. Hajime had activated the fireman’s standard thunder, which was certainly one way to wake you up.

As soon as the black sword was pushed away, her head thumped face first into the table, white smoke rising from her body as she rubbed her jaw with one hand.

The black sword seemed to have worked satisfactorily.

“Why’d you do that so suddenly?”

Naturally, the recovering Shizuku roared in anger. She hit the table with her hand and gave Hajime a scowl.

“I figured I could wake you up and test the weapon’s efficiency at the same time.”

“You say that without a single reservation, this guy…”

As Shizuku tried to throw our words of protest, she realized that she had tossed the sword away while being shocked. She raced over to recover it.

“Before obtaining the sublimation magic, the best I could do was add one or two abilities to ore. However, by tying the magic with the generation magic, I was able to create two or more effects.”

“And you’re ignoring my anger to explain… Alright… It’s fine now.”

Since Hajime began explaining the reinforcement of the black sword as if nothing happened, Shizuku decided to let it go with a grand sigh. She

watched him with scornful eyes, trying to convince herself to do so.

"Therefore, I added some new magic to the black sword. One is gravity magic. The weight of the sword can be changed. You can pull and repel against the blade and even cut gravity itself for an instant."

"That... is amazing."

The scorn in Shizuku's eyes dissipated during Hajime's explanation, instead of opening wide as she glanced over the black sword. However, it might have been too early to be surprised. As Hajime's explanation continues, her face starts to tighten over the full abilities of the sword.

First, it is possible to rupture space itself using spatial magic.

The black sword can repair itself automatically with reproduction magic. Moreover, it may aid in the recovery of the user to boot.

It can also damage the spirit by penetrating the body with spirit magic.

As well, fireman's standard thunder and wind nail's performances were improved, plus the new ability shock conversion.

"....."

Furthermore, the authentication method and status of the plate was reworked so that a long intonation is no longer necessary for a high effect. The sword itself has a "movement state" allowing the spells to be used chantlessly. Because Yaegashi is a speed fighter, she wouldn't able to spend long periods intoning a skill.

Hajime finished his explanation. Shizuku watches the black sword in her hand, cold sweat running down her face. The original cheat sword she possessed has now become flat out bugged, no matter how you look at it. If its performance was known, wars would be fought to acquire this weapon. It is currently the strongest sword in this world.

"Is it alright... having such a thing..."

"Oh, it's just in case."

"Just in case?"

Shizuku tilted her neck to the side with a puzzled look as Hajime looked up at the sky and gave a small nod.

Hajime had a sharp look, like from the eyes of a keen wolf. Shizuku's heart started to beat rapidly. However, she waited for Hajime's explanation while ignoring the heat rising in her cheeks.

"It's pretty understandable. Once we capture the last labyrinth that means we should be able to return to Japan. However, there will be obstacles. The idea that it'll go that smoothly is just optimism."

"Obstacles? You mean like the mad gods?"

"Yes. It doesn't seem like the god's will let an irregularity like me go. I'll need some meat for the time when the God's Apostles like Nointo start to appear in large quantities... though you've also considered the age of gods magic as a war potential."

"Didn't you say something early about needing a meat wall? Hey? You said that didn't you?"

Hajime carelessly leaked a bit of his real intention, and Shizuku tried to address it with a floating vein throbbing. However, Hajime kept on talking, disregarding it.

"My artifact making ability as transcended into a new evolution thanks to the sublimation magic. Even if it doesn't improve any of the other age of god's magic, a considerable improvement in combat potential is possible. I can improve all of your equipment. Not only Yaegashi but the rest of the party too. While we go to the ice and snow labyrinth, it's possible another apostle of god may attack. It must be repulsed by any means. Of course, you'll also be able to challenge the other labyrinths with those strengthened arms."

"I understand what you mean..."

Having said what he wanted to say, Hajime stood up. Shizuku wore a troubled expression and hesitated.

"... After all, Nagumo-kun's group will go without us?"

“Hmm? Do you want to come with?”

“.....”

Shizuku didn’t answer. Originally, this was a big favor they asked and Hajime kept to his side of the bargain. He was to help them capture one large labyrinth.

The struggle through the large labyrinth, it seemed to permeate through their flesh and bones. She couldn’t deny the ability shortage that she possessed. In a word, even if she followed, she’d be a burden for Hajime and the others.

Furthermore, once capturing the ice and snow labyrinth, returning might become available. So Hajime had no reason to bring the other classmates along.

That’s why Shizuku didn’t answer, instead of shaking her head. Hajime opened his mouth at Shizuku’s response, then shrugged.

“Well... if it’s only Yaegashi, I wouldn’t mind bringing you...” (TN: Of course, wouldn’t want to leave some of your harem behind.)

“Eh?”
Shizuki’s eyes widen in surprise at the unexpected words that leaked from Hajime.

A beat later, Shizuku turned her head, her cheeks blushed red like a furnace as she hurried to conceal it. While desperately trying to calm down her wild heart, she attempted to ask Hajime’s real intention.

“As for that, what...”

“Well, it’s strategy. Your spiritual strength won’t be a problem at all. The gaps in skill can be filled with an artifact.”

“Oh, yes. Is that true?”

Her expectations were easily betrayed. Shizuku still thought “I did not expect it!”

Shizuku looked back, pulling the heat from her cheeks and quieting her mind while giving Hajime a reproachful look.

However, the words immediately after caused the blush to return once again.

“Yes, that’s true. Apart from the other members of my party, Yaegashi is the person I trust in most.”

“!!!”

It seemed like Shizuku’s reproachful look was a result of her thinking Hajime was trying to flatter her, but Hajime misunderstood. It was a recantation because of that. But the correction tugged at Shizuku, and she began to blush again.

Hajime wore a wry smile, ignoring Shizuku’s reaction while concentrating on his original purpose.

“Although, well, even if only Yaegashi follows, that could be trouble.”

“Eh… why is that?”

“Well, what will others in the class say? Amanogawa will definitely be out of control without you. He’d run around recklessly or just go missing going “Yaegashi is in trouble!” Embarrassing people are troublesome.”

“You’re being too frank…”

Shizuku was getting tired of being thrown around by Hajime’s behavior. Hajime reached into the treasure storage and pulled out a several chakrams.

“Do the chakram metastasize internally? What are you doing, taking them out?”

“It’s training. Just like you were doing before I came. If you’re tired, you should head back. You should be able to get some sleep now.”

As Hajime said it, Shizuku remembered how tired she really was now.

However, it didn’t seem easy to leave this place either. Looking at the surroundings… and Hajime, who had created a column of thirty or more Chakram around his body. Noticing it caused Shizuku’s mouth to drop.

“… May I watch… a little?”

“I don’t mind, but are you sure you don’t need sleep?”

“It’s alright, I’ll return when I get tired enough.”

Hajime shrugged his shoulder, acknowledging Shizuku’s words. Shutting his eyes, he pulled out Donner. Shizuku rested her elbows on the table, her cheeks in her hands, watching Hajime while supporting her head.

The next moment:

Tantantantantantantantan.

Hajime pulled the trigger on Donner, aiming at the chakram flying around at high speeds fast enough to be difficult to see. The bullets were non-fatal rubber-coated metal, causing the gun to produce a sound different than the usually explosive sound effects.

The fired bullets enter straight, right, and left in their respective chakrum circles, dashing from another chakram before returning to Hakime. The bullet exchanged so as not to put out from the column made from the chakrams metastasizing into more chakrams. His finger continued to pull the triggers as he peeled off and dashed around the circle of charkram aiming at yet another chakram.

It was repeated, minimum movement and eagle-eyed shots emerging across the dancing leaves in every direction.

The movements might have lacked the elegance of Shizuku a little while before, but there was no military art in the last few hundred years that succeeded by being beautiful. However, it was reasonable. The movement was refined for minimum requirements combined with rational decisions. It was a different sort of elegance compared to Shizuku.

It was creating a storm in which Hajime flew within its center, causing Shizuku to stare instinctively.

A bright red ripple expanded in the air from where Hajime worked, in addition, more chakrams were taken from the warehouse, creating a spheroid surrounding from every direction.

And,

Dopan. Dopan. Dopan. Dopan. Dopan. Dopan.

The sphere flashed with bright red as the chakram moved in.

The fatal bullets accelerated by electromagnets, delimiting from the laser-like red line in the glow. Ten meters in diameter, the chakram circle gradually narrowed the range. When it reaches 3 meters, red flashing light discharged continuously from point blank range.

Hajime shot down each light one at a time. Donner in his right and left hand embodied the moving about offense and defense like a separate living entity. The innumerable chakram basked in bright red light, filling the inside of the sphere. The shots and shining increase, like a bright red moon that floated in the sky.

"... Beautiful."

With an entranced expression, Shizuku muttered the words every time she saw the bright red around Hajime. It seemed like her unconscious real feelings were overflowing.

The shots echoed across the forest, spoiling the peace and calm of the morning. However, Shizuku's eyelids continued to become heavy while watching the red star in the sky, and consciousness quietly slipped away from her.

Chapter 134 : Awakening

As always, this is a not a direct translation, but a rewrite on my interpretation of the MTLs. All credit goes to the original author Chuuni Suki

*All the wrestling moves go beyond my MTL abilities. I translated the best I could, but I won't be surprised if my translation of events deviates greatly from what the author originally wanted to get across. As long as you get they were fighting, it'll probably be good enough.

* * *

"Nu....Nu?"

Shizuku's eyes opened softly while she leaked out a cute noise. Waking up from her nap, her pupils couldn't seem to focus quite right. A moment, later, she realized that she was looking at the wood grain of a ceiling over her head. In her half-wakeful state, she also recognized a soft feeling on the back of her head.

As she wore such a defenseless face, a familiar voice came from her side.

"Shizuku-chan, are you waking up? It's already noon time."

"Uh?....Kaori...?"

Shizuku unintentionally turned towards the source of the voice. It was indeed her best friend next to her. Kaori was watching Shizuku with a gentle smile, sitting in a chair next to the outdoor window.

She rubbed her eyes and sat up, shaking off sleep like she was rising to the surface from a deep pool of water. She started to recall where she was before she lost consciousness and tilted her head to the side.

"Oh? I was outside in the woods... I mean... how did I get here, this is Kaori's room?"

This was one of the private rooms prepared for Hajime's group in Fair Bergen. Although she didn't know Kaori's room on sight, since Kaori was

here, she assumed it was.

Remembering the event this morning, Kaori wore a bitter smile with just a hint of pain in her heart while examining Shizuku, who wore a puzzled look.

“Yes, it is my room. This morning, Hajime brought Shizuku-chan. You were staying up all night? That’s not good. You just came back from a Great Labyrinth. You should be taking it easy.”

“I understand, I’m sorry. So he brought me here? I don’t remember at all.”

“Shizuku-chan was very tired.”

Kaori raises an accusing finger at Shizuku as a form of scolding, causing Shizuku to fidget restlessly. Her docility made her look even more cool and adult-like with her long black hair no longer in a ponytail, displaying the gap power between the two of them.

Her unclothed figure in a one piece shirt also contributed to the appearance. No wonder all the girls in the class wanted to call her older sister. Witnessing her figure would cause someone to declare that ‘her destructive power is amazing!’ With a single smile, she could create a blood bath from nosebleeds alone.

Even Kaori was blushing a little. Shizuku looked up at her with a blush of her own and asked Kaori nervously.

“Oh... how did he?”

Shizuku seemed to struggle with the fact that she had succumbed to sleep, her heart rate going up at the thought of Hajime holding her. Was it perhaps a princess carry?

However, reality was cruel, so Kaori’s cheeks were cramped.

“How would you be carried normally?

“...Kaori, normally?”

“Normally, yes, plain. Only a little artistic.”

“Wait, Kaori… what do you mean by artistic?”

Shizuku continued to ask even as Kaori hesitated to say anything disagreeable. Kaori’s eyes seemed to swim for a while, before she forced a smile back onto her face.

“You were sleeping, how do you say?… crucified to a cross… while being drifted through the sky?”

“Eh, crucified?

After hearing it in detail, it seemed the Hajime had used the opportunity to bring Shizuku back to her room as a form of training, practicing with gravity stones to bring her back without waking her. It could be said that getting the balance right in order to prevent her from being jarred awake would be a burden worthy of being trained.

In addition, she ended up in Kaori’s room because Hajime had no clue where hers was.

“Even so… why a cross?”

“It spreads the body out like a sphere, so that mistakes won’t jar the body as much, so it’s easier to make adjustments, so you sleep.”

“Even if you say that… isn’t that a sort of unpleasant sleep…”

Shizuku’s cheeks twitch convulsively. A vein floats over her forehead, the heat in her chest turning ice cold. Kaori deepens her wry smile.

By the way, the state of Shizuku’s crucifixion was witness by a group of passing soldiers. Like the image of Christ on the cross hanging in churches on the earth, it had an effect on people. The number of Shizuku fans increased exponentially due to the mystique of that image, but that was better left unsaid right now.

As Shizuku burned in silent anger, there was a sound from down below. It appeared to be the voice of someone familiar. It was the voice of a woman. Kaori glances out the window.

“It’s somewhat noisy? What’s going on?”

”…there’s an encounter… Shia and Arutena (Translation Note: Yeah, I

didn't remember her either. She was an elf saved by Hajime after being enslaved by the Hoelscher Empire). A fight this early in the morning. Something ought to be done."

"What kind of fight?"

"Well, I'm not sure how to explain it, something quarrel-like? It's early, let's go see!"

Without understanding, Kaori sums up and explains the event while urging Shizuku to follow her downstairs.

Apparently, the pair had started fighting regarding something to do with Hajime. After some unheard comment, Shia had exploded and the pair started wrestling. Shia was currently using a cobra twist on Arutena in the middle of a dining area.

Shia seemed to be using professional wrestling techniques on the granddaughter of Alfrerick. She was practically a princess! An estranged girl from the rejected rabbit group was using violence on the daughter of one of the strongest forces in Fair Bergen. In a normal situation, this would be an immediate reason for execution.

However, the rabbit family had changed their luck of recent.

In other words, they were now known as the "head-hunting" rabbit family.

Solving the situation with her skill, Shia spit out vicious words about Arutena daring to keep approaching Hajime, and so she met Arutena crudely and with violence, causing her to crumble. Shia was aware of Arutena's behavior. Though no one would have expected the treasured princess to approach Hajime in the first place, but still...

"Oraoraoraoraora! If you want me to stop, don't make eyes at my Hajime!"

"Ah, ah, ah! This is shameful!"

Apparently, Arutena did not seem too discouraged from continuing to follow Hajime, even at the hands of Shia's wrestling techniques.

Arutena was tossed upside down and put on Shia's shoulder. Professional wrestling technique – kinniku buster! Expanding her splendid legline to the max, Shia lifted Arutena inversely, exposing her groin area. Her undergarments were made bare, defiling her purity and innocence unexpectedly.

By the way, Hajime was still in the dining room. There were also several employees of the dining area and two skiki maids with Arutena. Everyone was flustered except for Hajime.

"Ko... is this okay? That's the princess... being treated this way."

"Is she really the princess? Would she wear such an expression?"

"...Ah... that... Somehow, she seems happy?"

Shizuku asked the question after heading down from the room she had stayed overnight, while Kaori's expression twitched at the sight in front of her. Kaori made it a response by pointing to Arutena's face.

Her face was certainly dyed red, but the edges of her eyes seemed to be shining with excitement. Arutena's expression almost seemed to give out a happy atmosphere.

Though the other party was giving her extreme humiliation... it still seemed like she was following her heart and it was not all together bad.

"You're going to be obstinate, how about this!"

"Ko...this time, such disgrace."

Shia had run out of pity as Arutena refused to say she'd stop approaching Hajime. Even before the kinniku buster throw had brought her to the ground, as Arutena fell, Shia kicked out her foot, rolling and bringing her body up. It was the so-called Romero Special.

While rolling, Arituna's skirt flies up, ruining the grandeur and her once graceful tone. However, her expression still wore a determined look, which invalidated Shia's persuasive power.

Because Shia's position, she wasn't able to see the expression on Arutena's face. Therefore, she believed that Arutena was sufficiently

punished. Everyone in the place was already mind boggled that Arutena wore a pleased expression. “This daughter... she’s already been beaten up but is still pleased?” This put a perplexed expression on everyone’s face.

“I see, something quarrel-like indeed.”

“Yes... you’d like to think even... Tio found a like-minded friend, but this seems a little different.”

Shizuku wore a face of agreement, while Kaori saw something pitiable. In fact, Tio, an oddity in and of herself, seemed to be watching Arutena with affection, like a master watching over the growth of her pupil. Her look seemed to hold sympathy and joy over finding a compatriot. Hajime and Yue sat down in a seat opposite of hers, while holding looks of disgust.

Tired of this scene, Hajime opened his mouth toward Shia and offered words that damaged Arutena to the very limit.

“Shia, stop wasting your time on nothing.”

“Say, Hajime, I won’t stop. I’m just reducing the number of rivals. The princess decided to refuse. She also seemed a little too conscious of her wants. I took the initiative to strike first!”

Shia shifted into a reverse boston crab, apparently intending to nip this rival in the bud. While putting her into another shameful place, Arutena lets out a painful, but somewhat glad, scream. The appearance of a princess was completely lost. The maids and employees tried to escape reality, their souls hanging out of their mouths, ready to escape.

Hajime turned his eyes on Tio with a flat expression, and then he dipped some bread into his vegetable soup and put it into his mouth before standing up with a reluctant sigh.

While collecting the glances of everyone in the dining room, he moved over to Shia and pulled her arm and Arutena’s foot, separating the two.

The drawn Shia immediately settles into Hajime’s arms. Kaori and Shizuku meet the scene with blank expressions while letting out a stupid “oh!” noise.

Hajime disregarded them. And quietly whispered something into Shia's rabbit ears, causing her eyes to widen in bewilderment.

"Shia, Is Yue your rival?"

"What?" Yue? That's not right. Yue is special...that."

While embracing the puzzled Shia especially strongly, Hajime tried to persuade Shia.

"There already is no rival to you. At least, I don't intend to talk to other women at the same level I talk to Shia. It's impossible to compare Arutena and Shia together. I give you my priority, my special treatment."

"Ha... Hajime..."

To the word "special" that Hajime unexpectedly whispered, Shia dyed red momentarily. It wasn't exactly what Hajime said, but the conviction behind the words that showed Hajime's change in attitude since some nights ago.

In other words, Yue was "special" from everyone else. No one could be in the same line as her, but there isn't only one special person for Hajime, not only Yue can be special.

To be told this, with no special situation, in the middle of a dining room at noon was a complete surprise. While wearing an embarrassed expression, Shia's blush deepened. Everyone else except Yue had stiffened with similar leers as Hajime comforted Shia.

"That, Shia. With regard to Arutena, Do you think that applies to you?"

"What? Eh? I?"

Shia responded with confusion as her back was patted softly.

Arutena had covered her face with both hands, embarrassed by the pink space she suddenly found herself right next to. However, she's peeking out from an opening in her fingers, her eyes trembling restlessly with just a hint of shame.

"After all, I clawing... after all, it's Hajime."

“Chi, it’s different! I don’t think of Shia badly. But I want to talk to Shia without reserve!!!”

“Oh…”

Shia pulls away from Arutena, then goes back to clinging to Hajime. Such a thing is a professional wrestling skill, obviously. Shia realized she had turned Arutena abnormal unintentionally as she applied a shameful joint technique.

Tio was giving Arutena a look of admiration. Shia noticed, it was indeed a smile of approval.

A new abnormal had been awakened. Shia turned her gaze to Arutena, while floating a disturbed expression.

“Another transformation…”

“This is different! Shia misunderstands! I really just want to get along well with Shia!”

“You do? What? Me?”

Shia was asking nervously as Arutena vented her emotions.

According to Arutena, apparently, this.

Arutena is a princess in Fair Bergen. Since she’s the granddaughter of Alfrerick, a high level person in the community, she is treated as a noble existence between the families. Therefore, she’s always been handled carefully by others.

The result goes without saying. Brought up as a gentle girl with a kind heart, she received a good education and was loved by many, however, she was always given special treatment. She was given first priority, practically worshiped by boys and girls of the same age. There was nothing on equal terms with anyone.

Surrounded by people who’d always treat her gently, she began to feel lonely. She began to feel admiration. She always wanted a close friend, someone who could exchange opinions without restraint.

However, it was the obstinacy and result of the rivalry with Shia, that

impacted Arutena the most. It was an impact to her body as well as an impact to her mind. A girl the same age as her treated Arutena mercilessly. It exposed those feelings with ever hit, physical and by word. After the shock, she absent mindedly and unintentionally felt joy.

And, so she thought, someone from the same age group, it might be possible... to become best friends with someone who can put the nature of her family aside. It seemed wonderful.

"Because, I'm ashamed to say, that when I got near Hajime, Shia would pay attention to me."

"Well, you can't get attention like you're a dog..."

"There it is... handled as a dog...me"

"Oh... you react with just that?"

To Arutena, there is blush on her cheeks from a strange gladness for being treated like a dog. Shia wears an "After all..." expression. Arutena sits up, panicking a bit, stretching her hand out to Shia quietly while standing up nervously.

"So, then, if you say so, will you be my friend? Can you answer me?"

"...Somehow, this confession makes me itch... if you just want to be friends, I can't think of a reason to refuse."

Shia was disgusted a bit while thinking "it's still a princess". She took Arutena's hand for a handshake, and Arutena wore an amazed expression. Arutena's look turned to a smile, pleased at the unexpected development. Meanwhile, everyone else wore stiff and uncomfortable expressions.

"?"

When Shia tries to separate her hand, "Huh?", she inclines her neck. Why won't Arutena let go of her hand?

"Uh, Arutena-san? My hand..."

"Oh, please drop the honorifics, just call me Arutena! And I'll call you Shia! Since we are best friends, this is normal!" (Translation note: I'm

really bad about catching honorifics, so just assume most people are using –san -sama ect…"

They went from becoming friends to best friends in five seconds. Really? This is the daughter of a large figure in Fair Bergen, after all. Shia began to have a cold sweat, while Arutena blushed at telling Shia as much.

"So, Shia, what technique will you use this time?"

"Eh?"

"It is very shameful, and strange pain even becomes numb… however Shia's warmth is transmitted. Because I'm Shia's best friend, you can use your various techniques on me. We can play more!"

At that moment, Shia shook off Arutena's hand with a zuzazaza- and retreated back to a wall, cold sweat flowing down her face.

"Na… What best friends? Isn't this just a pervert, you really did change!"

"Such a thing! I only want to spend as much time as I can with Shia before she leaves tomorrow!"

"Then, what comes with "wanting to play"!"

To this dangerous Arutena, Shia's rabbit ears were bristling. Hajime held a smiling expression, and Shia had her mouth gaped.

"Indeed, this is my Shia, who shares the hardship of others."

"The first half of your words are wonderful, but I other half sound unpleasant!"

To a comparatively cruel excuse of experiencing hardship of a locked-on abnormality (Arutena), Shia became watery eyed. Apparently, Hajime doesn't intend to help at all.

Arutena approached Shia who is pressed up against the wall. She's wore a smile that said "Let's continue with what we started a while ago."

Being the opposite of pleased and suppressed by this power, Shia turned and opened a window with a "ban" sound, leaping from the room with a jump and running away like an escaping rabbit. She apparently planned

to escape from public until things cooled down.

"Ah? Shia! Where did you go? Wait for me!"

To Shia's actions, Arutena acted like a woman whose lover just deserted her, leaping through the window while executing a physical strength on par with what Shia did. She started running off with a "shitatatata" sound on her feet. Shia turned back and saw Arutena. Giving a shout, "Hiii!?", she bolted off toward the downtown of Fair Bergen.

The two disappeared from sight with surprising swiftness. Everyone was left staring at the scene, Hajime at the head, with feelings that could only be described as stupefied.

Meanwhile, the form of a girl advanced on Hajime.

"....Hajime... A while ago, what did you mean by what you said to Shia?" Kaori demanded.

Problems just always seemed to outbreak around Hajime.

Chapter 135 : Unexpected Future

As always, this is a not a direct translation, but a rewrite on my interpretation of the MTLs. All credit goes to the original author Chuuni Suki

* * *

After the clear affection that Hajime showed Shia, Kaori approached him with a strange sway in her step.

"....Hajime....What was that a little while ago? I wonder?

An impossible shadow floated across her face, with no discernable light source as the cause. Just her eyes darkened. Combined with her chilly look, it had a terrible effect.

"Though it hurts to think about... Did Shia really become someone "special" too? When? Why? What caused this?"

To Kaori's interrogation, Hajime gave a wry smile while scratching his cheek.

"Well, what to say... Although I can't say it's within the same line as Yue... somehow or other, I have started to desire an exclusive possession for Shia. There was Yue's advice too, and so I decided to treat Shia in suitable manner. There was nothing in particular that changed."

"So, it's... romantic feelings for Shia?"

"I'm not sure... It feels different. But I think you can call it love?"

Actually, Hajime could not help by incline his neck as if asking whether these feelings for Shia were in fact romantic.

To Yue, his heart throbbed, and he felt passion that flew in the face of reason, which wasn't the same with Shia. Besides the burning feelings for Yue, he felt a quieter, softer one when it came to Shia. Once putting it into words, he realized it might really be love.

He'd always have feelings that burned like the sun for the always quiet Yue, however, the sweet and innocent Shia was like the moon. It was a

very mysterious thought. They were contrasting feelings, but it was clearly more than simple affection. However, since the feelings were subtle, Hajime was at a loss on how to explain.

The entire dining room quieted as Hajime's feelings were expressed. Shizuku wore a complicated expression, while Yue and Tio wore slightly gentle-looks while they continued to eat sweet cake, and as for Kaori, who had started this cross-examination...

"... Yes, I understand."

She wore a content face, a happy smile forming for some reason.

Even if Yue's position didn't change, this was proof that there was still room in Hajime's heart. That smile was for an important friend who managed to accomplish this. Though finding out had disturbed her and still pressed in unconsciously, she understood that the distance between Hajime could be crossed and smiled as a result.

Of course, she felt envy. There were smoldering feelings, even at this very moment. However, she had fully realized the situation based on the journey so far. If there was time to do such a thing, it was good sense to show yourself in a favorable light.

As Kaori moves through her vivid feelings, she figured half of Hajime's feelings were a result of Shia's natural virtues. Kaori really liked Shia's strength and diligence. She could be happy for a friend.

Somehow, those feelings were picked up, causing Hajime to show an embarrassed look before he reached out and rubbed her cheeks muni-style.

“Fe? Ha... Hajime?”

“It’s not really a big deal.”

“Eh? What is it?”

Kaori, who became glad for some reason, asked with a smile, not understanding.

However, Hajime didn’t answer. While having an expression as if he was giving up silently, he went full muni of Kaori’s cheeks. (Translation edit: Doesn’t he know you never go full Muni!) Then she turns her eyes to Yue.

Yue had seen the rising affection for Shia in Hajime’s eyes, and she wore a small smile while giving her nod of approval.

Tearing off a piece of bread, she gave Hajime a mysterious smile before dipping it into her soup and then tossing it had Kaori like a brick.

Becha! The bread stuck to Kaori’s temple with a sodden sound, clinging to her temple. It quickly transmitted the implication, “It has been decided and you have no involvement.” Kaori wore a cramped cheek, pulling off the bread while wearing a dark smile before performing leaping attack at

Yue.

"Yu-e!"

"... Stop. Wasted Effort. Just tuck your tail and go home."

Yue avoided Kaori's strike by escaping through the window Shia had jumped through. Looking back over her shoulder, she gave a grin. It held the feeling like "Try catching something outside of your reach."

That "uuuu!" Raising a vexed voice, Kaori chases after. Her silver wings unfolded and she took to the sky. Is their relationship good or bad...? At least Yue seemed to like the interaction with Kaori.

The people left behind stared on in an absent-minded state.

"Hmmm, finally, master has surrendered to Shia, too. In that case, the time in which he falls for mistress and Kaori's charm grows ever closer."

Tio drawed up her unnatural chest, the brutal double hills protruding with a Bachikon! The sound seemed to have an effect on the room. Amorousness overflowed from her body, in particular, the remaining men suddenly become more slouchy.

However, that sex appeal was let loose on Hajime specifically.

"Putting aside Kaori, you have no chance."

"Haa... haaa... so intense... from master... breaking my hopes... piercing adequately, mistresses' weakness... haa... haaa!!"

Her body started shaking from Hajime's word, her thighs fidgeting as she hugged herself. The sensual atmosphere this gave was incomparable to the sex appeal from moments before.

However, the slouching appearance of the men from earlier withered quickly. This was because of the unpleasant look on Tio's face. This killed the mood. (Translation Note: Yes, I find freaky hot girls in the throes of ecstasy to be a real turn off... oh to be in light novel-land!)

Shizuku caught Hajime's strange remark, which seemed to casually suggest that Kaori was in the same category as Shia.

(Then as for me... Hey, what do I have to do with any of this! Kaori seems to be taken good care of. That is enough and, yes, there is nothing else to conclude!)

Standing in a corner of the room, Shizuku's face scrunches up in one comical face after another. Everyone else is focused on Tio. A few gave Hajime brooding or evil expressions. Hajime gave another sigh. Meanwhile, the chases continued on outside.

For noon time in Fair Bergen, it was very noisy compared to the usual tranquility.

"Uu, I encountered such cruel eyes..."

It sounded from a forest corner of Fair Bergen, the complaint shining with the orange of the evening sun.

In a plaza set off a little way in the town, many tables had been set. There was a fountain using spring water in the center. Usually a place for people to rest, none of the residents were out right now, concerned with other matters. Only Hajime and Shia remained there. All the other members were gone, making preparations for travel.

Hajime sat down at one of the tables in the deserted open space, giving Shia a nod in acceptance of her hard work and training. The cause, of course, was the attack from Arutena. Shia had been chased to exhaustion by someone who used animal-like perception rather than physical strength, likely only stopped by her grandfather's intervention.

As Hajime watched her drooping rabbit ears, he couldn't help but burst into laughter. Those ears started to twitch violently.

"Please don't enjoy it. It was seriously scary!"

"Don't say that. It's great to find a friend your age. Isn't it good you got to play fully?"

"I can't lie to you, but can you really call that playing, or that kind of relationship friends? I think I understand what Hajime is going through

with Tio now, huh? How should I say... being liked doesn't feel bad, but it's exhausting?"

The fatigue caused Shia to droop once again.

Hajime felt sympathy for Shia, giving her a node. He understood better than anyone how the goodwill he provided toward Tio was not the extent of a mere transformation. Tio's desire to not be defeated by Shia and Yue was strong. Therefore, Hajime felt tired, a regrettable reality of his true feelings.

Hajime's expression softly turned into a smile, and he lifted up a hand quietly. He gave Shia a kind pat, soothing her rabbit ears. As Hajime fawned over one of her ears, Shia trembled offering her other ear.

He had both wonderful rabbit ears wrapped up in his hand, his cheeks blooming. The sweet sound of him stroking her ears with his fingers leaked out, the sweetness transmitting into the neighboring air and wrapping Shia and Hajime up in a sweet space.

Hiding her face in her blueish white hair, she speaks in a whispered voice.

"... Hajime... The... thing is, that, it's daytime... that..."

The voice was fraught with expectation that can't hide shamefulness. It was obvious what she wanted to say. She just wanted to be clear.

Hajime rose from his seat with a noise and moved next to Shia, where he sat down. Shia noticed the sign and twitched while turning her face down, her body still shaken. She was pursued by Hajime gently, who turned Shia's shoulders towards him. He held her powerfully just like that.

Shia's face, held by Hajime, boiled up completely red. Her pupils, full of light, were moistened. The maiden's eyes were too pretty, looking up at Hajime, overflowing with affection.

".... Shia, it was you who said "The future isn't absolute," certainly it's like that."

“Ah....”

“It was the thing Shia had said to Hajime long ago when she wanted to travel with them. A once-in-a-lifetime confession, words of answer that Shia long since believed were impossible. Absolutely, these words of determination turned to Hajime.

“Shia... now, you haven’t confirmed your feelings.”

There was still Yue who was “special”. Is she really even good enough to hear such a thing? Shia was afraid of confirming.

“I love Shia very much... I do not want to lose her to anybody.”

Even though the words were selfish, his desire leaked from them. Shia’s eyes increased in heat, she let out a hot breath like a dragon.

“There is not chance I want to let you go, so please decide. Shia is my woman!”

“.... Yes.... Yes... I am Hajime’s woman!”

While tears fell down her cheeks and her body lips tightened, she wore a smile. It was a blooming, energetic, full smile. No, a smile that was many times more beautiful and lovelier than anything preceding it. Surely, if other men saw Shia today, their hearts would race and their blood pressure would rise just by this look.

In it, Hajime was no exception. The love within him spiked and he hugged Shia tightly, taking her lips against his own.

“Nu.... mmmm...”

At Hajime’s beckon, rejoicing tears fell from Shia. Her body lightened like cotton candy, a sweet sigh leaking from her. Her body burst with heat like the Guryuen Labyrinth as if she’d start melting at any moment.

“.... Ah.... Hajime...”

A silver bridge hung from their parting lips separated with only a breath. The embarrassed Shia lowers her eyes. Her usual cheerfulness is overridden by a terrific loveliness. It was a charm that could hold a man captive in a way that matched even Yue’s mysterious beauty.

Shia's pink lips opened slightly, her tongue moving with a chirochrio (abundance?). Her pupils give him an upward glance. A look that said... "more".

Hajime smiled, looking at the lovely pleading Shia. His lips met hers again as his hand touched her cheek.

At that point, an impatient voice suddenly spoke up.

"Fuhya, to start doing that that... those two... and outside!"

"Shh! Suzu, you're being too loud!"

"Shizuku-chan is being too kind when it comes to Hajime."

".... Everyone is being too noisy, you'll embarrass Shia."

To those familiar voices, Shia separated her lips with a gasped and turned her gaze to those who were talking.

Shia, becoming aware of the group, lost the mood. "Wait, oh, that!" as a people fell from the corner of the flower bed where the plaza was enclosed.

Falling on top of each other, Kouki, Ryuutaro, Suzu, Shizuku, and Kaori were there. Yue let out a sigh, appearing from behind. Tio appeared as well, floating an interesting smile. Apparently, they had all been hiding to watch the love affair between Shia from cover.

While getting up in a hurry, the group blushed. Suzu and Shizuku didn't seem to be able to look directly at Shia and Hajime.

"To see, see... and everyone, how long have you been there...."

Shia was shaking, her face turning deep red like an explosion. The one who answer the question directed at Suzu turned out to be Hajime.

"It was since I was playing with Shia's ears."

"That's not the beginning, everyone saw... yet you still say it like that..."

Shia hit Hajime repeatedly out of a sense of shame. Tears form in her eyes, but they had different meaning from a moment ago.

"Why do you want to hide it? It was good timing, and I didn't want to

miss the chance."

"I did not want to miss it either... but even so..."

Shia's spirit was dampened by Hajime's blankly nice manner, further causing her to feel embarrassed, yet also happy.

As usual, Tio speaks up while floating a smile at such a Shia.

"Please, how was it? How was the taste of passion from master? Nn? Tell this mistress a little, how is Shia's happy embarrassment?"

"Speak for yourself, pervert."

Tio had put her arm around Shia and then suddenly she collapsed from a strike to the back of the head. Her finger twitched, moving into a point, and it was drawn to... "So it was Yue". Yue had chucked a lump of ice mercilessly at her head unexpectedly.

"Yue..."

".... Shia."

Shia had glanced back at Yue, who was giving Tio a cold look as Tio pointed at her. After Yue dismissed Tio, she gave Shia a patient look. And then she smiled lightly, both of her hands opening.

"... Come."

".... Yue, now."

Shia jumped into Yue's chest. She clinged to Yue, with the size of a child but the stability of a woman. Yue patted her head with a look of kind affection while she hugged Shia in turn.

"... Yue, I... finally!"

"Nn... you worked hard. Good child.

"I love Yue, much the same!"

Shia echoed and then wept for joy. Shia was understood. However much Hajime thought someone to be important, it was ultimately up to Yue, whom was "just as himself". Without worrying about Hajime, anyone else would be an "other" to Yue.

Yue treated Shia like a younger sister. She, the older sister, had watched her younger sister working hard. Moreover, the feelings of Hajime, which were stubborn, were finally accepted. It was a joyous event that Yue accepted sincerely, the value of Shia, and her right to her feelings...

“Is Yue not bothered?”

Unintentionally, Hajime muttered with a sullen face as Shia happily pressed her face against Yue’s breast. The younger sister who depends too much is reluctant. Like a good older sister does not baby, both people wore an expression of contentment that looked heartwarming overall.

“Tio, next will be our turns, let’s work hard.”

“Of course, I dream of the day that I am attacked by husband and worked hard.”

“... you can’t act like... Tio.”

Tio was in the state of collapsing while Kaori was talking while poking her. Tio revived with her eyes shining with hope. In the surroundings, Koaki, and Ryuutaro were looking at each other awkwardly, while Suzu looked at Shia and Hajime with an unreadable expression.

Do they need to encourage each other? Hajime opened a mouth with a troubled smile after hearing Kaori’s words.

“Please don’t tempt me so much...”

“!!” X2

Kaori and Tio look at Hajime with surprise, their eyes shining like stars. There was no other meaning to that... their dropped confidence recovering quickly.

Hajime had no intention to accept a partner who Yue didn’t like at all, but he couldn’t think Yue would value people that she constantly fought with. Of course, now that Shia has been accepted, there already is someone “besides Yue”, and the declining complaint of their being only one isn’t in common use.

The main points is that Hajime has recognized two people as important.

To the degree which forgets itself when there are others.

Though Shia doesn't have a monopoly on his desire, it was still declared that Hajime accepted Shia and had a place in his heart. This meant things were not helpless for the others.

And at that time, Yue wore a pleased expression, Kaori and Tio's eyes were sparkly while Suzu watched on nervously. Everyone's eyes seemed to meet restlessly.

Hajime opened his mouth without knowing what was going through Suzu's mind, suppressing Kaori and Tio.

"And? What are a couple of peeping toms doing together? You're a bit early for supper. So what is your business?"

"Well, that... we met Yue accidently, and we..."

Shizuku gives a perplexed expression to Suzu. It seems like Suzu had noticed something unusual regarding Hajime. They seemed to have joined Yue accidently when she was looking for Hajime.

Hajime shot Suzu a dubious look. Suzu stepped forward toward such a Hajime.

"Nagumo-san, You see, take Suzu to the next large labyrinth, please!"

Because he thought Kouki would be the one making that kind of request, he was surprised when it was Suzu that was the first to beg.

"Suzu, that..."

"Kouki, this is about me. Therefore, this is an individual request for Suzu. Please don't butt in!"

After Suzu returned from the labyrinth, Kouki possessed a gloomy atmosphere in response to her words, but with no strength to retaliate, he stopped. So it was not everyone, but Suzu specifically.

"Even if you don't accompany, I'll help bring us back to Japan anyway, and I said I can provide strengthening artifacts so that you can become strong, is that okay?"

“Yes, it is certainly so..., but, as for Nagumo, you won’t lend a hand to Eri?”

“... Is it Nakamura...? Well, it is so. It’s possible I’d shoot her on sight on instinct. She is one of the reasons Kaori was killed.”

Suzu floats an embarrassed smile towards Hajime’s bitter expression.

“It is so, However, I want to meet her and talk. Therefore, I need power. So I want to challenge the large labyrinth again. And no matter how the result becomes, when you come out, you’ll probably end up in the territory of the demons.”

“Suzu, that is...”

Shizuku grabbed Suzu’s shoulders instinctively. No true friend would allow another to go into the demon territory alone.

However, Suzu was overcome with her strength of will, and there wasn’t a single doubt in the look she gave to Shizuku as she held her shoulders.

On the other hand, she was convinced that if she traveled with Hajime, she’d have the chance to persuade Eri. If she accompanied Hajime to the source of the ice and snow labyrinth, they’d end up in the so-called demon king castle, which seems to be where Eri was held up.

Anyway, the ice and snow labyrinth is east of the south continent. The country Garland, the stronghold of the demons, was in the central southern continent.

Suzu knew that it was impossible for Hajime to be concerned about Eri, therefore Suzu understand it and knew Hajime might not wait for Eri to come around before leaving. Therefore, she’d talk to Eri until Hajime found out how they could return, and the best way to get that chance was by accompanying them to the ice and snow labyrinth.

When Suzu turned her eyes back to Hajime from Shizuku, she asked earnestly with a tone that suggested desperation.

“And if, if it’s possible to collect Eri with that, if Eri wants forgiveness... in that case can you return us to Japan together. Please! Please, I beg you!”

"……"

Suzu's screaming plea echoed, no one could say anything and everyone was silent.

Honestly, for Hajime, he remembered the look on Eri's face. The spectacle when Kaori fell was recalled at this moment, and only murderous intent sprang with thoughts of Eri.

It was selfish that Suzu did things this way regarding Eri. However, the thought of cooperating felt like a small bone stuck in his throat. The girl named Eri Nakamura was already an enemy to Hajime.

However, even if it's so, the request of Suzu was done with all of her heart. It was the eyes of the ascribable Kaori as to why Hajime possessed so much urge to kill Eri. Those eyes said something, conveying their own thoughts and meanings.

At that time, the long silent Kouki opened his mouth.

"Nagumo, I must also ask. I am the cause of what happened to Eri. Even though it might be unpleasant, I must speak with Eri. I can't let Suzu go along to the demon territory. In it..."

Kouki had to strongly bit his lip, his fist grasped giving words with a slightly depressed atmosphere.

"As it is, it is not possible to end. Shizuku was also able to obtain the age of gods magic. I, uh... if we keep following, we'll surely obtain power. If it is not such a mean place full of mental attacks, even I should be able to capture it. A large labyrinth where it goes this time, is a place even those demons can capture. Then, surely I can!"

"Kouki..."

To the appearance of Kouki, with his clapped trembling fist and dark atmosphere, Shizuku watched him with anxious eyes. Shizuku remembered the look of shock on Kouki when she was able to obtain the age of gods magic and he was not. Therefore, though he took care not to let it show, to a childhood friend he could not conceal his uneasiness.

“Oh certainly, I can’t let Suzu go alone. When it came to Eri, given Nagumo’s character, I have to ask too.”

“Ryuutaro too, Haa, well, it doesn’t fit to let Suzu go alone. Nagumo-san... whether it is possible to ask...”

It didn’t really matter if it was Kouki or Suzu, if a companion was going, Ryuutaro would cheerfully come too. Though her eyebrows were lowered to the character of eight from embarrassed towards such a Ryuutaro, Shizuku smiled like she was welcomed by Kouki now. Next, Shizuku bowed, seeming to apologize to Hajime.

Hajime turned his eyes to Suzu with a desperate look to the decision of Shizuku, nearly brought to tears. Kouki who had some returned feeling, Ryuutaro who was a muscle brain, Kouki and Kaori who worried about Shizuku, who worried about Suzu as a childhood friend, and finally he threw back a loud sigh.

And, Yue, and Shia, and Tio’s eyes, and they had opened their mouths and were nodding as if to say they understood the unpleasantness of having to make this request.

“... If I get even a little of hostility, I’ll shoot to kill...”

“Of course, Nagumo-san, thank you!”

Suzu, who managed to get consent, looked wiped out, her face bright with the expression of thanks. Shizuku also expressed thanks.

Because he’d need to invent concept magic that would prevent a re-summon in addition to the magic that would allow them to return to their world in the first place, Hajime was thinking that it would take a while to return anyway, even after getting the last piece of magic.

Whatever Suzu did would not be an obstacle for his return, so he didn’t think there was any reason to not accept. However, the thought of Eri reforming and returning, Hajime did not think it was possible, and if she did get in his way, he would shoot her to death seriously.

Eventually, Hajime should take Suzu to the last large labyrinth and decided to permit it as it did not give him any problems in particular.

With his own magic rising thanks to sublimation magic, it shouldn't create any problems.

Ignoring Suzu, who had a new sense of purpose, and the sweet feelings that came with it. Hajime smiled to himself. Yue and the other nestled close to such a Hajime.

"... Nn, a magnanimous Hajime is cute."

"Indeed, this is a Hajime to be proud of."

"After all, master is tsundere."

"Getting... hehe, thank you, Hajime."

From each, warmly treating Hajime, he glanced away. And Yue and the others laughed happily to see it.

This place of gods and demons was interesting, but it seemed like they were reaching the final stretch.

Credits

111-124

T2Alternative @ Animesuki

125-128

Dura

129-135

elementalcobalt

~Arc epub version (0.9) + Cover by bakanonymous ~